

Maguire verdicts unsafe, says DPP

## Bomb factory convictions 'cannot stand'

By MARK SOUSTER

THE convictions of the Maguire Seven for running an IRA bomb factory could not be allowed to stand, David Waddington, the home secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

His announcement came after a statement by the director of public prosecutions that the 1976 convictions were unsafe and unsatisfactory. The Home Secretary said the case would probably be referred to the Court of Appeal when the judicial enquiry into the convictions was complete.

The news was greeted with surprise and relief by the Maguire family, who have always protested their innocence, and by those who have campaigned on their behalf since their arrest in 1974. Anne Maguire said: "I always left that little bit of hope open that justice would be done one day. It has been done; at least, it is halfway there now. It has been a long, long nightmare. There is no other way to describe it."

Her son, Patrick, who was 13 when he was arrested, said he hoped the appeal court would quash their convictions. "I haven't been waiting 16 years for someone to tell me I am innocent. I know that. What I would like is for someone to tell me why I have had to suffer for 16 years when I am an innocent man."

The Irish government said it looked forward to the quashing of the convictions and hoped there would be an

early and satisfactory resolution of the Birmingham Six case.

Mr Waddington said he would probably refer the Maguire case to the appeal court after Sir John May has submitted his report from the enquiry, which ends today.

The home secretary said he was delaying the decision because, once referred to the court, the case would become sub-judice. That would make it "very difficult for the May inquiry to go into these matters any further". He understood the reason for considering the convictions unsafe and unsatisfactory was "on the basis of the accused having become innocently contaminated by traces of explosive".

Mr Allan Green, the director of public prosecutions (DPP), said scientific evidence given to the jury "may have misled them into excluding the possibility of innocent contamination but it is evident that, in the light of current scientific knowledge, this was a real possibility, however remote. In these circumstances, the convictions cannot be regarded as safe and satisfactory."

This is the third time in the 12 months that convictions of alleged terrorists have been found unsafe. In October, the Guildford Four were freed, and in April, three people convicted of attempting to murder Mr Tom King, the defence secretary, were released by the Court of Appeal. Campaigners yesterday renewed calls for the Birmingham bombings case to be reopened.

At the judicial enquiry yesterday, Neil Butterfield, QC, for the DPP said that while it was accepted that the convictions were unsafe and unsatisfactory, that conclusion was based solely on the issue of "innocent contamination". He urged Sir John not to find there was dishonesty or misconduct by scientists at the defence ministry's armament research and development establishment (RARDE), since that would have serious consequences for other cases handled there.

"There is no cause for ill-informed speculation that in any case other than the Maguires there had been any miscarriage of justice," he said, but the DPP recognised "that evidence by RARDE scientists may have misled the jury."

Evidence against the Maguire family and their friend, Patrick O'Neill, was based

solely on the result of tests for nitroglycerine contamination processed at RARDE. Mr Butterfield suggested that Mr Douglas Higgs, the retired head of forensic science at the laboratory, had his professional reputation bound up with the tests and that may have affected his objectivity.

Mrs Maguire, her sons Patrick and Vincent, her husband Patrick, her brother Sean Smyth, her husband's brother-in-law, the late Giuseppe Conlon, and Mr O'Neill were jailed for between five and 14 years on the strength of evidence that they had traces of nitroglycerine on their hands.

The family, from Kilburn, north London, was implicated in confessions by two of the Guildford Four that were later retracted amid allegations of police malpractice. The May enquiry was asked to investigate the Maguire cases along with the wrongful imprisonment of the Four: Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson, who spent 15 years in prison.

Outlining the reasons for the DPP's decision, Mr Butterfield said there was now experimental data that demonstrated that traces of nitroglycerine could innocently taint other objects. He referred to a towel in the Maguire family's home that could have contaminated people when they dried their hands.

The DPP did not accept there was any indication of contamination of the test samples taken from the Maguires, either by the police or at the laboratory. But he did accept that the scientists' "credibility has been undermined to a certain extent".

Mr Butterfield disagreed strongly with Mr David Clarke, QC, counsel for the enquiry, who named various scientists as responsible for serious mistakes. "It is difficult to think of a graver allegation than that made by Mr Clarke," Mr Clarke said. Walter Elliott, who carried out the original tests, Dr Thomas Hayes and Mr Higgs had all made mistakes. In some cases they had asserted points which were not based on any research, in others they had failed to correct prosecuting counsel when the lawyers had claimed the test used was infallible as a test for nitroglycerine.

Reaction, page 2

## Guinness trial judge discharges a juror

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE judge in the Guinness trial yesterday announced that one of the jurors had been discharged. The reasons were given by the trial judge, Mr Justice Henry, to the other 11 jurors, but he imposed a ban on reporting them under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act.

Later Mr Justice Henry said: "I would simply like to make it clear that the reason for the discharge is personal to the discharged juror, it does not relate to his past conduct as a juror and has nothing to do with this case."

During yesterday's evidence Ernest Saunders spoke of his

anger at the publication of letters linking him to £5.8 million paid by Guinness to the Heron International group for allegedly illegal help in the Distillers takeover.

One covered the return of the fee by Heron's chairman, Gerald Ronson, after the Department of Trade and Industry began an investigation into the 1986 takeover.

The second was an acknowledgment from Sir Norman McFarlane, the man who succeeded Mr Saunders as chairman of Guinness.

Saunders 'livid', page 25

## Parkinson confirms rail link shelved

By MICHAEL DYNES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday officially abandoned the multi-billion-pound Channel tunnel rail-link project of European Rail Link. While confirming that the new route would eventually be needed, it did not specify how it would be built.

Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, said that the government had no option but to turn down the offer of £2.5 billion of private sector capital for the proposed 68-mile link between Folkestone and London, because of the £2 billion of public sector money required to underwrite it. He said there was "broad agreement" that the existing corridor between Folkestone and the North Downs, near Swanley, was the "right corridor for the new line", which would now be "safeguarded" by local or central government "planning direction".

British Rail will henceforth assume responsibility for any additional work on the remaining section of the route.

Full report, page 2  
Parliament, page 8  
Photograph, page 24



## Miners' mob rules the streets of Bucharest

By CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST AND MICHAEL KNIFE

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 Romanian coal-miners, self-proclaimed defenders of last December's revolution, controlled central Bucharest yesterday, checking identities and beating and manhandling people they suspected of being anti-government protesters.

Four people were reported killed, two of them hit in the head by army bullets. Hundreds more were injured by the government's strong-arm supporters. Mobs of miners, armed with sticks, raced across University Square, forced their way into faculty buildings and dragged their victims outside.

As the violence continued, Petre Roman, the prime minister, sacked Mihai Chitac, the interior minister, because of the failure of the police to stop the anti-government protests.

The United States and

Britain condemned the Bucharest government's handling of the situation. Both warned that they would not assist Romania economically until the Bucharest authorities improved their human rights record. Romania is anxious to establish preferential trade links with the West and to achieve most favoured nation status in the US.

A White House spokesman accused the government of President Iliescu of using vigilante violence against the protesters and the Foreign Office said it was resorting to "rent-a-mob" tactics.

Mr Iliescu had urged the miners in a speech to occupy University Square and the adjacent Magheru Boulevard, the site of a marathon anti-government protest that police broke up before dawn on Wednesday. "You, in co-

operation with the order-keeping forces, shall be the guardians of this vital part of the capital," Mr Iliescu told them, urging them to avoid "excesses and bloody acts".

President Bush condemned the use of force "in the strongest possible terms" and called on European leaders to back America's demands for a calm transition to democracy in Romania.

"We are concerned that the deplorable events of the past two days are being used to justify the suppression of legitimate dissent in Romania," Mr Bush said. "This underscores the urgent need for Romania's newly elected leaders rapidly to establish the

Continued on page 24, col 5

## Cameroon keeps up its surge

FROM AGENTS IN SARDINIA

ROGER Milla, a substitute, virtually ensured Cameroon a place in the second round of the World Cup by scoring twice to earn a 2-1 win over Romania in Bari yesterday. They defeated the world champions, Argentina, in their opening group B match.

Meanwhile in Alghero, 11 English fans, some hurling tables and bottles, were arrested. The sports minister, Colin Moynihan, urged Italian authorities to keep English and Dutch soccer fans apart after their match tomorrow.

A Nottingham magistrate remanded Paul Scarratt, who has boasted of his hooliganism, to prison for 28 days yesterday to stop him getting to the World Cup.

Graham Taylor, page 43  
World Cup news, page 43, 48

## Labour leaders support rates

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party leadership is planning a renewed attack on the government over the community charge, after breaking the deadlock in its own search for an alternative.

Labour MPs voiced satisfaction yesterday at the disclosure in *The Times* that the party is to opt for a return to the rating system and to abandon plans to base its property tax on the capital value of homes.

It was confirmed last night that Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, John Smith, the shadow chancellor and other members of the shadow cabinet support the plan to base Labour's tax on the rental value of properties.

It will introduce a reformed and modernised version of the rating system, with what it will

claim to be a fairer system of valuation representing rental price differentials between different properties and different areas.

It was said last night that among Labour MPs and the shadow cabinet the political case for a return to the rates had been won, although local government experts, who have been involved in Labour's review and who have been known to favour capital valuation in the past, have still to be convinced.

There has been disagreement in Mr Gould's environment team over the shift away from capital valuation but it appeared last night to be close to resolution.

Local protests, page 24  
Leading article, page 15

## Gorbachev asks for that White House touch

From MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

MOSCOW has accorded United States democracy the ultimate accolade. John Sununu, President Bush's White House Chief of Staff, is to teach the Kremlin how to run a presidency.

Mr Sununu, one of the administration's most unreconstructed conservatives, acknowledged in an interview published in *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday that the development was amazing. "Never in my wildest dreams a year ago would I have ever told you that this kind of openness... would be unfolding," he said.

Mr Sununu's counsel is

being sought on everything from presidential scheduling and how to handle several million letters each year to the development of policy and the marshalling of presidential support among legislators.

The Soviet Union created the post of executive president last March, and the idea of tapping US expertise emerged from a conversation between Mr Sununu and Yuri Dubinin, the former Soviet ambassador to Washington, in April.

The scheme gained momentum during the recent summit, when the idea of White House assistance with photo opportunities during Mr Gorbachev's cross-coun-

try trip to address business leaders was rejected by staff of the Soviet delegation and then accepted, too late, by Mr Gorbachev himself.

Whether the new arrangement will lead to a new crispness about Moscow television's sound bites or to Boris Yeltsin being held responsible for a rising crime rate is not clear, but a close ear will undoubtedly be kept on Marx's grave in Highgate cemetery for sounds of turning.

All this week a six-strong team led by Mikhail Shkabarova, the business manager of the Soviet Council of Ministers, has been in Washington studying the structure and organisation of Mr

Bush's executive office. It was this team which extended the invitation to Mr Sununu.

Mr Sununu will wait until the Soviet team has had time to put its ideas into practice before going to Moscow. "They want to begin to make some changes and get some things in place so that part of what we can do is see how they've done it, and see if there's anything we can contribute by being there," he said.

In addition to Mr Shkabarova's team, Capitol Hill has this week been swarming with Soviet Deputies examining aspects of how Congress works.

Increase delayed, page 10



Mr Sununu: An openness beyond his wildest dreams

## Plan for British 'FBI'

The government is to encourage the development in Britain of a new national crime agency on the lines of the FBI, to tackle the increasingly mobile major crime syndicates who operate on a national basis in drug trafficking, fraud and armed robbery.

David Waddington, the Home Secretary, confirms in an interview with *The Times* his belief that a national serious crimes intelligence unit must develop an operational arm to fight large scale crime. This could in time involve up to a thousand senior detectives capable of handling problems like money laundering. Page 8

## Sea mystery

Soviet environmental specialists have been drafted in to determine the cause of an ecological disaster in which star fish, seals, walrus and other creatures have been washed up dead on the shores of the White Sea. Page 10

## Church challenge

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, examines the challenges that will face the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Page 14

## More jobless

The number of Britons out of work rose by 4,400 to 1,611,000 in May, the second monthly rise in a row. Average earnings rose by an unchanged 9.5 per cent in April, and the employment secretary, Michael Howard, warned that pay awards had to remain moderate. Page 25

Comment, page 27

## Good start

Ian Woosnam had a 70 in the first round of the US Open golf championship at Medinah Country Club in Chicago, while Mark James had a 74 on his first appearance in the tournament. Page 48

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## Pensioners concession outlawed as unfair to men

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MAN aged 61 who paid 75p to use his local swimming pool, while his wife of the same age was let in free, was the victim of unlawful sex discrimination, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In a test case that will put pressure on the government to equalise state pension ages, the law lords ruled by three to two that concessions offered to people of pensionable age discriminate against men and are unlawful. Mr Peter James, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, had challenged the local borough council's policy of offering free admission to women at 60 and men at 65.

The judgment has widespread implications for organisations using the state pension age as a yardstick for granting concessions. It will affect fees for educational courses, leisure cards, library charges, entertainment concessions and some airlines. It will not affect prescription charges and travel permits

because the pensionable age is in the statute governing the concession.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed the appeal, called yesterday for a change of policy among organisations offering concessions to pensioners and on the government to equalise state pension ages. Valerie Amos, the commission's chief executive, said: "Given that nearly half the male workforce now retires between 60 and 64, to offer them concessions only when they reach 65 is unfair and out of step with social trends."

The ruling, which came in the wake of others by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg on occupational pensions and retirement from work, "points up again the need for the government to equalise the state pension age", she said. Elizabeth Whitehouse, the commission's legal adviser, said: "This ruling means a significant extension of equal rights for retired men and women, but we will only get full equality when the government introduces an equal state pension age."

Last month the European Court gave a ruling that will require companies to phase in equal pension ages under their pension schemes or be in breach of EC laws on sexual discrimination. Many organisations, including British Rail, English Heritage and the National Trust, have changed their rules on benefits so that men and women receive them at the same age.

Giving judgment yesterday, Lord Bridge of Harwich said that in November 1985, Mr James and his wife, who were both retired, went to the council-run swimming pool at the Fleming Park leisure centre. Mr James was refused free entry because he did not draw a state pension. He took the council to Southampton county court, where his claim was dismissed. He also lost an appeal to the Court of Appeal in April last year.

"At first glance this may seem to be a trivial matter," Lord Bridge said. "But the truth is to the contrary. It is an important test case." Lord Bridge rejected the council's argument that it had not acted unlawfully because it had not directly discriminated on ground of sex, but only indirectly through the pensionable age limits, which could change.

The appeal court had upheld that view, saying the condition "pensionable age" applied equally to women and men and could only amount to indirect discrimination. But the law lords ruled that indirect sex discrimination could arise only where the same criterion was applied equally to both sexes but the impact differed and was less favourable on one sex. Pensionable age could not be regarded as a condition that was applied equally, precisely because it was itself discriminatory, the law lords said.

Lord Ackner said he was not troubled by the suggested consequences of the decision. "In the light of the changed and changing work practices between the sexes, there is much to be said for linking benefits to actual age rather than to state pensionable age."

Law Report, page 42

## Field rival cleared of ballot misdeeds

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE union official who defeated Frank Field in the reselection contest at Birkenhead has been cleared of any wrongdoing by an internal Labour party enquiry. Paul Davies will be allowed to stand against the Merseyside MP in a rerun of the election.

The enquiry, conducted by Joyce Gould, Labour's national organiser, will soon be completed. It has found evidence of Militant Tendency activity in the constituency and will recommend the expulsion of six or seven supporters of the tendency.

The outcome of the enquiry is expected to be considered by Labour's National Executive Committee on June 27 and the cases of the Militant supporters will be referred to the national constitutional committee.

Mrs Gould will propose that the local party should rerun the selection contest of December 9 last year. Mr Field then won the first ballot with 44.7 per cent of the vote against 34.1 per cent for Mr Davies, a local official of the Transport and General Workers' Union. When the votes cast for Cathy Wilson, a Militant supporter, were redistributed, Mr Davies won 50.6 per cent of the vote to Mr Field's 45.6 per cent.

After his defeat, Mr Field sent a 150-page dossier to the executive committee alleging Militant infiltration, voting irregularities and intimidation of party members by left-wingers. At the time Mr Davies claimed that Mr Field was using smear tactics against him, and Mrs Gould has found that he was blameless.

The enquiry will not lead to enough expulsions to cause a big change in the composition of the local party, and Mr Field may face a tough fight to win reselection.



The "Badminton Cabinet" on display to potential buyers at Christie's yesterday

## Children in abuse cases 'face risk'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A WARNING that children giving evidence on live video links could be at risk from paedophiles attending the courts has been given by an eminent police surgeon and passed to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

Dr Raine Roberts, director of the sexual assault referral centre at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, has urged that the public be excluded from courts when child victims are giving evidence in sexual abuse cases to prevent their names and addresses becoming known to potential assailants.

In a letter to the Labour MP Alfred Morris, Dr Roberts told of a recent case in which she was involved. What she described as "dirty old men" were in the public seats when two girls aged 10 and 12 gave evidence, including details of gross sexual abuse.

She said that paedophile groups were known to seek out potential victims and it was known that children who had already been abused were sometimes vulnerable to further abuse. "Not only may such groups be enjoying vicarious pleasure from seeing these children describe their experiences... but I think there may be a real danger to such children if they become known to these people."

Law Report, page 42

## Jehovah's Witness couple defy doctors' plea on baby

By LIN JENKINS

A BRITISH cancer specialist in Cyprus yesterday tried to persuade the parents of a girl aged two suffering from leukaemia to go against their beliefs as Jehovah's Witnesses and allow her to undergo a blood transfusion.

Police suspended a warrant for the arrest of Titos Charalambous and his wife Helen when they took their daughter Stephanie to hospital in Nicosia to have the diagnosis confirmed and discuss possible forms of treatment.

Last night, after four hours of talks with doctors, Mr Charalambous said he was adamant that his child would not have a blood transfusion. He agreed to return her to the hospital for further bone marrow tests. Doctors were studying the next moves, but promised they would do all they could to save the child's life.

The family had been sought since the parents took Stephanie from the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, in London on Monday after doctors diagnosed acute leukaemia and said the only safe treatment involved blood transfusions. With treatment there would be a 70 to 80 per

cent chance of a cure and without it she would die, possibly within weeks, Jon Fritchard, consultant oncologist, said.

Test results from the London hospital were sent to Cyprus as Helen Soteriou, British-born oncologist, examined the girl. The Cypriot authorities had granted a warrant for the arrest of the parents should they fail to comply with an order to produce Stephanie after similar action was taken in the High Court in London on Tuesday.

Social workers and doctors had hoped to find the family before they left the country, allowing the court to overrule the parents' wishes and authorise a blood transfusion.

The legal position is less clear in Cyprus, although doctors believe Stephanie may receive treatment under a law which requires parents not to neglect their children's health.

Dr Soteriou, who examined Stephanie, said Stephanie's parents were said: "They are in a huge moral dilemma. They came to us voluntarily looking for some treatment that would not mean a blood transfusion. Our initial results confirm

those of Great Ormond Street that she has acute leukaemia and will need at least one blood transfusion and intensive treatment that could involve several more. We are trying to find out the legal aspects of this case. I have been trying to tell them their consciences will be clear if the law insists on a transfusion."

Dr Soteriou said that she had asked the head of the CID to lift the warrant. "We did not want the parents to feel harassed because this could be detrimental to the child's health, especially if the parents go into hiding."

Andreas Haveras, the police chief, who warned Mr Charalambous two weeks ago to take all possible steps to save his child's life, said: "We cannot interfere because we have been assured by two doctors the parents are doing their best for Stephanie. We do not want to frighten them."

In London, the Hospital for Sick Children confirmed it had sent the test results and medical notes to Cyprus. "We are confident that Stephanie is in the hands of reputable and caring doctors and that her interests are being looked after."

## Cabinet expected to set record in furniture sale

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIE'S hopes to triple the world record for British furniture on July 5 when it sells the "Badminton Cabinet" on behalf of the Duke of Beaufort for an estimated £4 million.

The Victoria and Albert museum, as the national museum for the applied arts, will be obliged to try and match the new price on any export licence, if the new owner wants to take the cabinet abroad. The museum was offered the cabinet last spring, but felt unable to launch an appeal at that time due to the burden of the campaign to save Canova's *The Three Graces*.

The 11ft cabinet decorated in ebony, gilt, bronze and pietra dura with birds, flowers and fruit was commissioned by the third duke of Beaufort in the early 18th century, and made by the Florentine Giovanni Battista Foggini.

Two months ago, the heritage lobby considered launching a campaign to save the cabinet. They said it should not have been removed from its tailor-made niche in its Grade I listed home at Badminton, Avon.

The cabinet, which has been described by the V&A as the most important single piece of furniture in an English private collection is being sold by the Duke to meet inheritance tax. Until April, it was situated in a niche which some experts think was specially designed by Sir Jeffery Wyattville, the house's architect.

A 1970s catalogue for Badminton refers to the way in which it was fixed into the wall: "the wood being hidden in the joints on the wall and the marble alone being visible".

● Six stringed instruments sold by Julian Bream, the guitarist, fetched a total of

£30,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday, and marked up two world records. Top price was £15,400 (estimate £12,000), paid by an anonymous Japanese dealer, for a 26 year old concert guitar made by Robert Bouchet. It was a record for an acoustic guitar. A Japanese private player paid £9,350 (estimate £5,000) for a concert guitar by Jose Romanillos, a record for that maker.

● A rare stamp found in a false wall by children "fencing" with billiard cues was sold yesterday for £7150. The unlisted 3d blue Natal stamp was on an envelope written in 1867 by James Ball, who had emigrated to make his fortune. He had sent it to his brother Henry's home in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

The stamp was bought at Sotheby's by London dealer John Taylor. It had been estimated to fetch £3000 to £4000.

## Art is 'beamed' worldwide

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

DEALERS, auctioneers and private collectors can now shop for works of art thousands of miles away, by using an electronic art catalogue.

Lasernet, a British company, launched the electronic catalogue yesterday allowing potential purchasers in Tokyo, New York and Stockholm to view art works on display at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, in London. A computer terminal, decoder and satellite dish are needed to operate the catalogue.

More than half of the exhibitors at the fair are using the system to display works, ranging from Old Masters and antique furniture, to modern art and pottery.

People or companies selling items send a photograph of the art object to a Lasernet centre. The system can reproduce high quality pictures of art works and collectables, complete with their history and design. These would then be "beamed" across the world to subscribers' personal computers.

Subscribers have been offered seven services, to allow them to browse for particular

craftsmen, artists, dealers, styles or mediums. A buyer can then telephone an order to a dealer or a bid to an auction house.

The system is expected to open up the worldwide market for art and collectables by making it possible to view a wide range of items without the need for time-consuming international travel. New items can be introduced quickly onto the service and those sold removed. Lasernet said the idea lent itself particularly to modern or abstract art, which was often difficult to describe.

Items on display at the fair which were being "beamed" around the world, included *A Roman Study*, painted by Alma-Tadema and valued at £170,000, a Fabergé snuff box, a work by Bruegel the younger entitled *Christ on the road to Calvary*, and a Georgian bracelet of gold, rubies and diamonds valued at £40,000.

Gabriel Noughton of Agnew's, the London firm specialising in Old Masters, said it was showing all its items displayed at the fair on Lasernet.

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NEARLY half population in Britain weight in spite of change eating habits last decade and have a high risk disease, a nationwide published yesterday.

The survey, conducted by the health department, the Ministry of Fisheries and Food, and published out on 15 June 1989-7. It is the first

Daily average

Cereals	3
Products (bread, biscuits, cakes)	1.1
Milk and milk products	1.1
Eggs and egg dishes	1.1
Fat spreads	1.1
Meat and meat products	1.1
Fish and fish dishes	1.1
Vegetables	1.1
Other	1.1

## Fat a proposal of int

FAT makes up a third of the British diet, of the known high cholesterol heart disease, showed. In 1984, the Committee on Food Policy recommended to reduce the 15% from heart disease. It advised even fat consumption per cent of total. The survey showed that 85 per cent of that amount, an average 102g a day compared women. This is per cent and 40, their food intake alcohol. Only 15 men and 15 per cent met the 35 per cent.

Both men and ate too much saturated fat, the main offender blood cholesterol. The survey showed that 85 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women ate less recommended level of fat (12 per cent). Main sources of fat were (24%), cereal products (16%), fat spreads (16%), products (15%).

The survey showed that two thirds of the population had cholesterol. The average total concentration of cholesterol in the blood was 5.2 mmol per litre, below 5.2 mmol per litre was considered a point above which there was a greater risk of heart disease. Cholesterol levels rose with age. Only 15 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women aged between 16 and 64 fell into safe levels. Of men and women, 15 per cent had levels above 7.8 mmol per litre, rose to ten per cent in the twenty-one per cent aged 50 to 64.

## WHO CONSUME

Rice  
White bread  
Wholemeal bread  
Biscuits  
Buns/cake/pastries  
Ice cream  
Whole milk  
Cottage cheese  
Other cheese  
Eggs/egg dishes  
Butter  
Polynesian marg  
Bacon & ham  
Beef & veal  
Chicken & turkey

## Lair

By Keith Schellen  
of Eigg and Fionn, yesterday's supreme civil judge, said his wife to sell the island to be worth £1 million.  
Mr Schellen, Margaret De Hinton, who has divorced in 1987, she would care for Eigg in the long term, have nothing management.  
Two years ago



# More overweight in spite of healthy eating campaigns

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY half the male population in Britain is overweight in spite of the drive to change eating habits over the last decade and two-thirds have a high risk of heart disease, a nationwide study, published yesterday, says.

The survey, commissioned by the health department and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was carried out on 2,000 people in 1986-7. It is the first national

dietary and nutritional survey of adults aged 16 to 64. Chips, white bread, cheese, milk, meat, ham and eggs still make up the staple British diet and people are now fatter than they were 10 years ago.

It shows that 45 per cent of the men and 36 per cent of the women surveyed were classified as overweight compared to 39 per cent of men and 32 per cent of women in a smaller survey in 1980. Twelve per

cent of women and 8 per cent of men were considered obese compared to 8 and 6 per cent respectively in 1980.

About 85 per cent eat more fat than recommended by a Department of Health advisory group in 1984 and most people have higher than desirable cholesterol levels, one of the risk factors for heart disease.

The report shows that, in spite of the high proportion of overweight men and women, both sexes ate fewer calories than the recommended daily intake. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, who carried out the study, said the amount they claimed they ate did not tally with other measurements of energy expenditure. It admits that this could be because those surveyed changed their eating habits during the seven-day period of the study or they underestimated the amount of food they ate and omitted snacks.

Women consume less than men and tend to eat more healthy foods. They were more likely to eat wholemeal bread, semi-skimmed milk, salad vegetables and fresh fruit. Men tended to prefer fried white fish, sausages, meat pies and chips. Older people were more likely to eat potatoes, milk puddings, butter, preserves, fresh fruit and vegetables. Younger adults opted for savoury snacks and take-aways such as meat pies, kebabs and burgers.

Although people are eating too much saturated fat and insufficient polyunsaturates, most people get more than enough vitamins from the food they eat. Women were more likely to take vitamin and mineral supplements than men but those who did were most likely to have the highest mineral and vitamin intakes from food alone.

The most popular food supplements were fish liver oils and vitamin C. Women often had lower than the recommended levels of iron and 4 per cent of women were anaemic.

The report also analyses social class differences and regional differences in eating habits. It found that unemployed men and families on benefit ate less than other groups. Women in lower social classes tended to be more overweight although this was not borne out in men.

The survey found that Scottish men tended to eat less and drink more than the average male and fat made up a greater proportion of diets for men in Scotland, London and the southeast than those from other regions.

Three-quarters of men and two-thirds of women drank alcohol during the survey week with men drinking up to four times as much as women. People in work were more likely to drink than the unemployed but about half the alcohol drunk by men and two-thirds of that consumed by women was drunk at home.

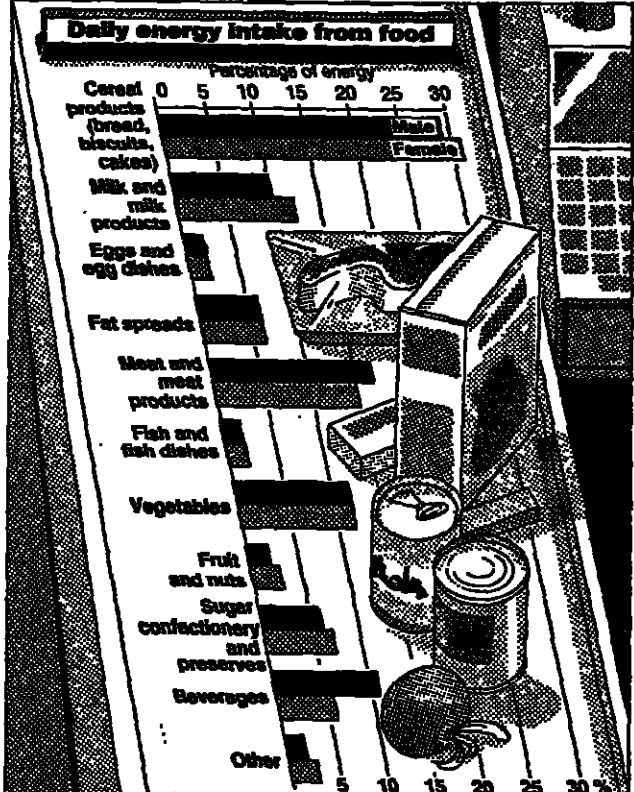
The survey showed that the health promotion message to eat more fibre, less sugar and less fat is not getting through to most people. About a quarter of the sample ate pasta and one-third ate rice. But three-quarters of those surveyed ate biscuits, cakes, buns and pastries.

Eighty eight per cent of the sample drank whole milk compared to 23 per cent drinking some semi-skimmed milk and 18 per cent consuming some skimmed milk. Only 4 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women ate cottage cheese. Butter was still the most popular spread, eaten by 60 per cent of the sample.

Beef and veal, bacon and ham were the favourite types of meat (75 per cent) with 66 per cent of people eating chicken and turkey. Men were more likely than women to have eaten most types of meat during the week particularly in burgers, sausages, meat pies and other meat products.

More men consumed table sugar than women (73 per cent compared to 58 per cent) but women ate more chocolate.

The Dietary and Nutritional Survey of British Adults (Stationery Office, £40.)



## Fat a high proportion of intake Dining out can be less nutritious

FAT makes up a high proportion of the British diet in spite of the known link between high cholesterol levels and heart disease, the survey showed. In 1984 the advisory Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy drew up recommendations to help to reduce the 150,000 deaths from heart disease every year.

It advised everyone to cut fat consumption to below 35 per cent of total food intake. The survey shows, however, that 85 per cent eat more than that amount. Men consume an average 102 grammes of fat a day compared with 73g for women. This made up 40.4 per cent and 40.3 per cent of their food intake (excluding alcohol). Only 12 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women met the 35 per cent level.

Both men and women also ate too much saturated fat, the main offender in increasing blood cholesterol. Only 11 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women ate less than the recommended levels of saturated fat (12 per cent of diet). Main sources of fat were meat (24%), cereal products (19%) fat spreads (16%) and milk products (15%).

The survey shows that as a result two thirds of those questioned had higher blood cholesterol than desirable. The average total cholesterol concentration was 5.8 millimoles per litre. Only 32 per cent of men and 36 per cent of women had levels below 5.2 mmol/l, the cut-off point above which there is a greater risk of heart disease.

Cholesterol levels increased with age. Only thirteen per cent of men and ten per cent of women aged between 50 and 64 fell into safe levels. Six per cent of men and eight per cent of women had cholesterol levels above 7.8 mmol/l. That rose to ten per cent and twenty-one per cent in those aged 50 to 64.

MOST people eat out at least once a week but the food they consume is probably more unhealthy than home cooking, the survey shows.

More than 90 per cent of the people who took part in the survey recorded some food eaten out of the house during the seven-day period. The foods eaten away from home, including take-away meals, contained less protein, more sugars and less fibre, iron and vitamins than the diet as a whole.

Men ate one-third of their food away from home and women nearly a quarter, although this was higher in younger people. The foods eaten out by women tended to contain more protein and fat and less carbohydrate than those consumed by men.

Older respondents, those in lower social classes and the unemployed ate out less than other people. The higher social classes ate better food when they dined out than other groups.

Two-thirds of the sample described themselves as non-smokers. Of the remainder 22 per cent of women and 17 per cent of men smoked fewer than 20 cigarettes a day. When the diets were recorded, 12 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men said they were slimming. Most of those on diets ate more healthily and consumed higher amounts of proteins and vitamins but they were fatter than average.

The survey, cost more than £1 million to complete and involved measuring height, weight and blood pressure in 2,197 people. Most participants also produced blood and urine samples.

Announcing the study yesterday, David Maclean, food minister, said: "It will provide a sound basis for the development for future food and health policy."

# WHO CONSUMED WHAT IN SEVEN-DAY SURVEY

	Male %	Female %		Male %	Female %
Rice	35	30	Burgers & kebabs	31	26
White bread	88	86	Fried white fish	48	40
Wholemeal bread	49	55	Onion fish	34	36
Biscuits	74	80	Salted vegetables	70	75
Buns/cakes/pastries	72	77	Peas	73	71
Ice cream	34	38	Potato chips	81	69
Whole milk	89	87	Apples & pears	51	59
Cottage cheese	4	10	Sugar	73	58
Other cheese	80	79	Chocolate confectionery	50	58
Eggs/egg dishes	82	78	Soft drinks	61	62
Butter	57	62	Wine	30	36
Polyunsat marg	34	32	Beers	64	22
Bacon & ham	82	73	Coffee	79	82
Beef & veal	79	72	Tea	88	88
Chicken & turkey	68	63			



Call to arms: Professor David Chandler, head of War Studies and International Affairs at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, will take the part of a French general and be in command of "troops" from Belgium, Switzerland and Russia. They will face 400 Prussians. The professor and three other members of the British Napoleonic Association have taken four years to organise the re-enactment. There will be an international cast of more than 2,000, with 150 cavalrymen, 2,500 rifles and 15 working cannon. Napoleon, however, will not be French. A Belgian look-alike has been given the part.

## Likelihood of humans having BSE 'is remote'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EATING British beef is as safe as "anything in this life is safe" but the possibility that some people might have been exposed to infection by the "mad cow" disease and might develop a human version of the disorder cannot be ruled out, a Commons enquiry was told yesterday.

Appearing before the agriculture select committee, Sir Richard Southwood, Lincolnshire professor of zoology at Oxford University, said: "I believe the chances of [the disease] being transferred to the human population ... remain extremely remote but no one can say it is impossible."

Sir Richard headed the working party which produced the first report for the govern-

ment on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), published in February 1989.

Asked by MPs if ministers were right to assert that British beef was safe, Sir Richard said he agreed with them "to the extent that I continue to eat beef". He added: "It is safe to the extent that anything in this life is safe."

In evidence to the committee the previous day, Professor Richard Lacey, Leeds University microbiologist who has persistently criticised the official handling of the BSE outbreak, suggested that "virtually a generation" of people could be lost because of exposure to infection.

Such forecasts went "far beyond anything warranted by

the scientific evidence", Sir Richard said. At worst, he believed there might be "a few more cases" of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dementia (CJD), a human spongiform encephalopathy. That was "on the assumption that BSE is shown to be more virulent than scrapie [in sheep] and so far there is very little evidence of that".

Since his working party had published its report, the evidence that BSE behaved in the same way as scrapie had strengthened. The probability was that humans would be at no greater risk from eating BSE-infected beef than they had been for two centuries from eating lamb and mutton.

Sir Richard said it was a pity more attention had not been paid to the warning in a 1979 Royal Commission report on pollution, of which he was a co-author, that recycling animal waste as feed created a risk of "transmitting disease-bearing pathogens to stock and thence to humans".

With all cattle showing symptoms of the disease now being destroyed, and lymphatic glands and other nervous tissue that might harbour the infective agent being removed from all carcasses, Sir Richard believed that any risk in eating beef was about the same as the risk that the "sun might not rise tomorrow".

## Seizure of jet with cannabis upheld

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal yesterday called for a change in the law which had forced it to uphold the right of Customs and Excise to impound a passenger jet which was carrying 331kg of cannabis in its hold.

In a judgment which could have profound implications for the world's airlines, the judges overturned a ruling in favour of Air Canada, whose Lockheed TriStar jet had been discovered with £800,000 worth of cannabis in a cargo container at Heathrow. Before the aircraft, which was on the way from Singapore to Toronto, could be released the airline had to pay an arbitrary £50,000 to Customs and Excise.

At the High Court hearing, Mr Justice Tucker said that airlines could not be expected to open every container to search for contraband and that parliament could not have intended an innocent and bona fide operator of a valuable aircraft to be at risk of

having it seized. Customs and Excise appealed and the ruling was overturned yesterday on the grounds that Section 141 of the Customs and Excise Management Act of 1979, which gives the authorities powers to confiscate any "ship, aircraft, vehicle which has been used for the carriage" of illegal goods, was "clear and unambiguous".

Lord Justice Purchas said that there "may well be a case to exclude international or large passenger jet aeroplanes flying on scheduled flights from being seized in the same way as vessels over a certain size have been excluded".

He said that something should be done, "but the court's view is that it lies in the hands of Parliament rather than in the courts". Under the terms of the act, ships bigger than 250 tons are not covered by the forfeiture rules but all aircraft are.

Air Canada, which yesterday was refused an appeal to the House of Lords, said last night it was considering whether formally to apply for leave to appeal.

Customs officials were delighted with the result. "If we find a small amount of drugs in a passenger's back pocket we obviously would not seek the forfeiture of the aircraft," a spokesman said. "But 331kg is a very large amount of drugs to be carrying and we believe that airlines should know what they are carrying in their cargo holds. After all it could have been a bomb."



Mr Justice Tucker: "Jet operator was innocent"

## Laird back in court to stop ex-wife selling island

By KERRY GILL

KEITH Schellenberg, laird of the Isle of Eigg and former bobsleigh champion, yesterday appealed to Scotland's supreme civil court to overturn a previous decision allowing his former wife to sell the tiny island, estimated to be worth £1 million.

Mr Schellenberg and the Hon Margaret De Hauteville Udy-Hamilton, who has since remarried, were divorced in 1980. As part of the divorce settlement, it was agreed that she would continue to own half of Eigg, in the Inner Hebrides, but would have nothing to do with its management.

Two years ago, Mrs De Hauteville Udy-Hamilton, now Mrs Williams, petitioned the Court of Session in Edinburgh to force Mr Schellenberg, aged 60, to sell the island, which has a population of 70. She accused him of mismanagement causing the value of her half share to decline.

During the hearing, it emerged that Mr Schellenberg had transferred his share of the ownership to Cleveland and Highland Holdings. Lord Prosser ruled that Mrs Williams should be free to sell the island. He said that the transfer of ownership meant that Mr Schellenberg's position as co-proprietor had altered since the divorce agreement.

Lord Prosser said: "By selling his pro indiviso share, Mr Schellenberg ended the situation to which the undertaking applied, and also ended his right to carry on business on the island, which in my opinion was founded in his proprietary rights. In these circumstances I consider that Mr Schellenberg has no remaining title or interest to oppose the declarator which is sought or to prevent a division or sale."

Yesterday, Derek Emslie, QC, said that Mr Schellenberg had an agreement over the island only with Mrs Williams. He was concerned that if she sold the island it might be to someone of whom he had no knowledge.

Lord Dunpark, sitting with Lord Allanbridge and Lord Maxwell said: "He could buy her half share."

Mr Emslie said there was a clause in the agreement to protect Mr Schellenberg's interests. He had a title and an interest to oppose the sale of the island. Last year, the islanders petitioned Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, calling for Eigg to be designated a British island dependency with its own fiscal powers. Their grievance was that they faced increases of up to 3,000 per cent under the poll tax. Rents were about £20 a croft, but the introduction of the poll tax meant each adult was faced with a bill of about £240. Independence has not been granted. The hearing continues today.

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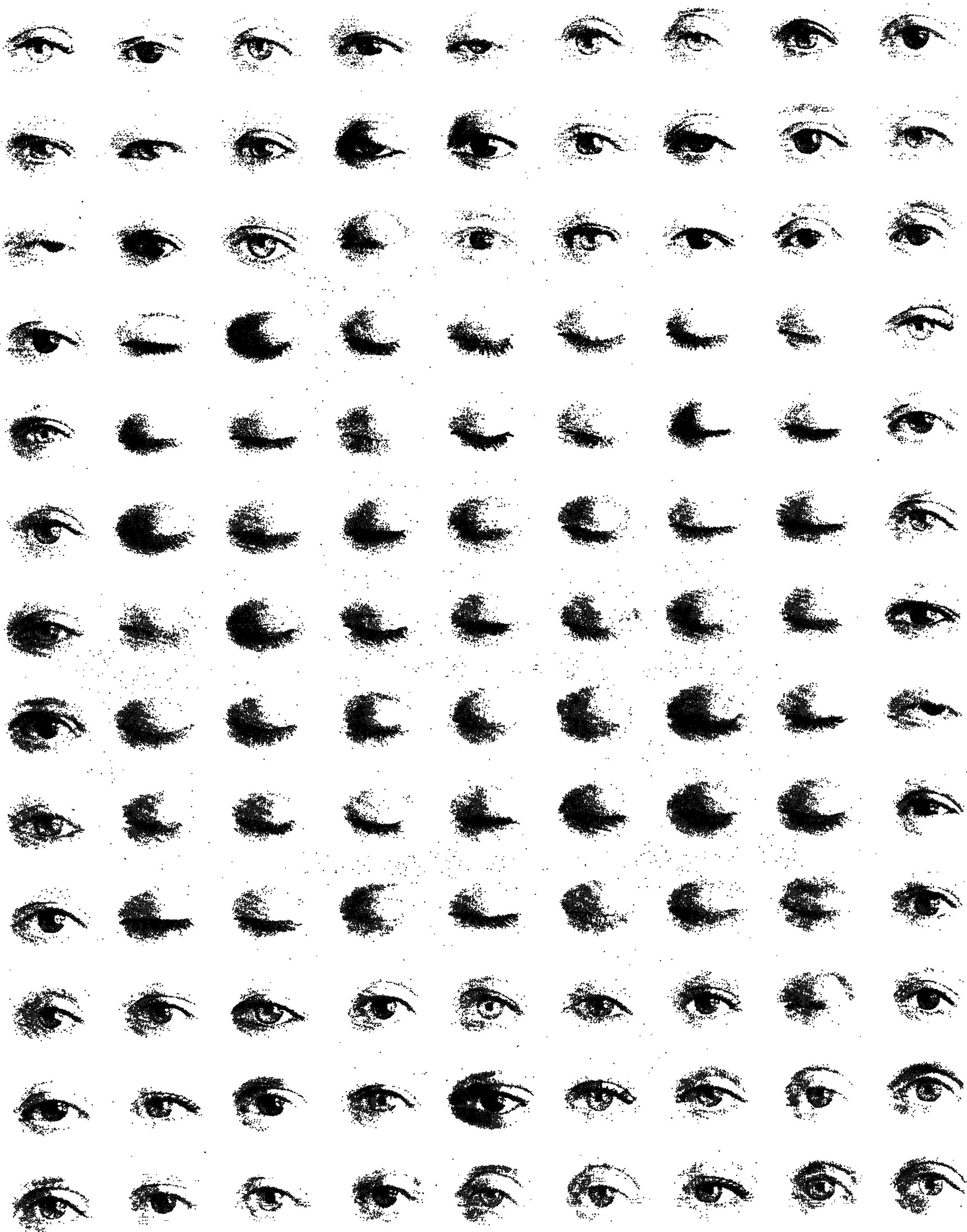
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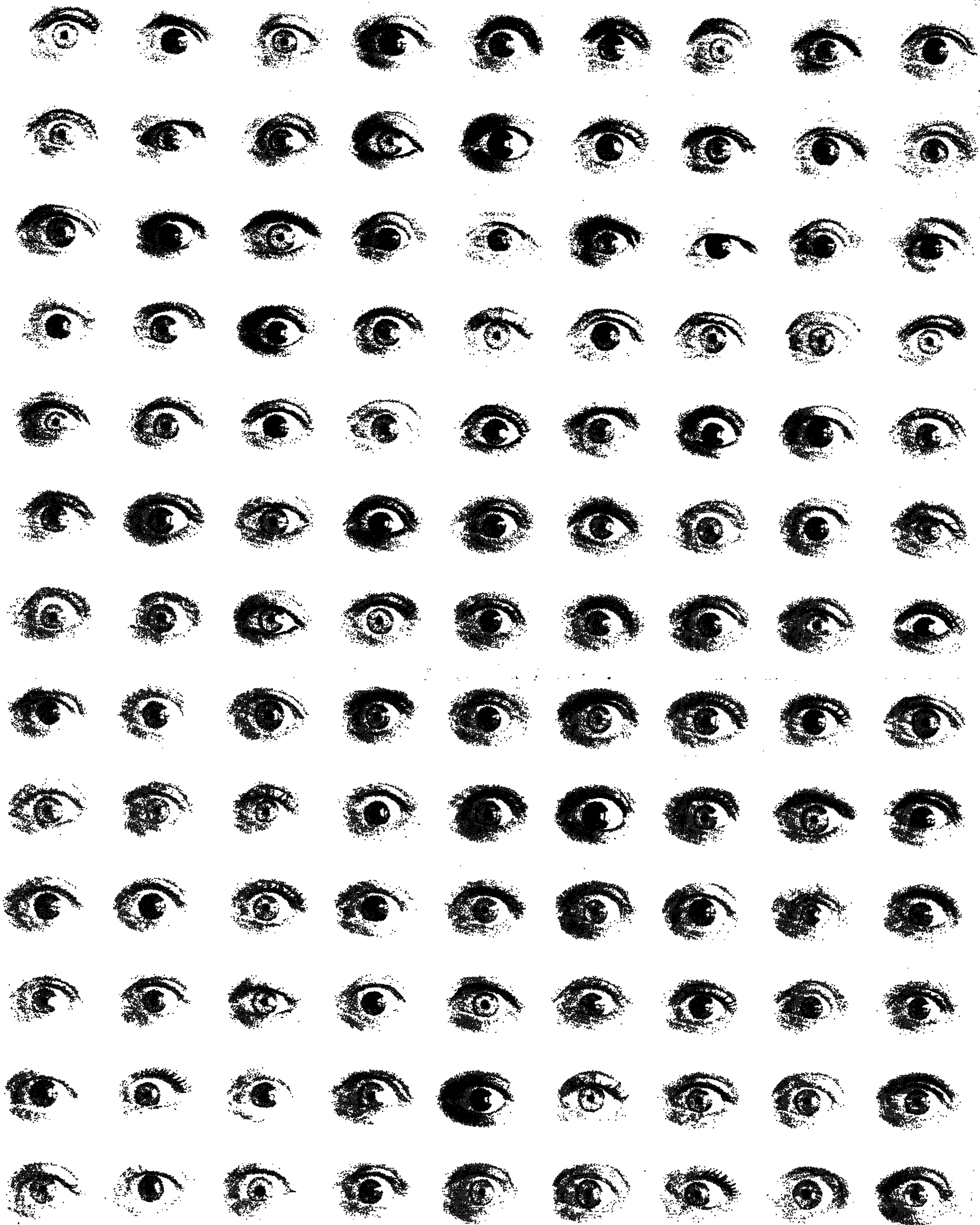
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\*SOURCES: S.R.U. PRICE MODELLING STUDY, JULY '88; N.I.P. MARKET POTENTIAL STUDY, NOV '89.



5 CHANNEL TV





# Cheated revolutionaries turn on Ceausescu's chosen heirs

As reported on page 1, Romania's ruling National Salvation Front appeared to have contained the uprising yesterday by embarking on a fierce crackdown. Christopher Walker gives the background to the discontent

FOR months the still dimly lit streets of Bucharest have echoed to the cry: "The ultimate solution is another revolution." On Tuesday, for the first time since the ruling National Salvation Front won a landslide election victory, there were signs that some of the protesters were trying to put their slogans into practice.

The hard core of several hundred demonstrators who were viciously removed from University Square's self-styled "neo-communist-free zone" were potent symbols of a widespread belief

among students and intellectuals that the blood shed in overthrowing Nicolae Ceausescu had been tragically wasted. Time and again during last month's election campaign, by far the most violent seen in Eastern Europe, reporters were faced with complainants such as Mihai Radu, an engineering student of 27, who, with a look of frustration, said: "We have been cheated. We have fought on the streets only to see the communists keep hold of power."

Perhaps influenced by his own propaganda and certainly ill advised by a disorganised and discredited internal security service, the new president, Ion Iliescu, a former top member of the communist party, believed that the demonstrators could easily be swept away. What he and fellow officials failed to grasp was that many of those who had fought in the front line of the revolution refused to accept the election results.

More dangerous for the new government was the conviction that it had been

somehow foisted on the Romanian people as part of a complex KGB plot to ensure that Ceausescu would be replaced by an acceptable socialist administration that would not upset delicate relations with the fractious Soviet border republic of Moldavia. The frustration of the demonstrators, which finally boiled over on Wednesday into rioting, which now threatens the future of the state — and which has called into question the loyalties of the army — was exacerbated by mounting evidence that the December revolution was, at least in part, a coup d'état. The case with which the Front, led by Mr Iliescu, an old colleague of President Gorbachev's from student days, took power, convinced Romanian students and Western intelligence that the exercise had been well planned.

The conspiracy theory was reinforced by evidence that the Front had been in loose existence for many months, if not years, before the bloody events of last December. The genuine support which

the Front received in the election was, the demonstrators said, because Mr Iliescu, aged 60, and his former communist cronies had bought over the workers with formerly scarce heat, light and food.

"The battle in Romania is between those who are frightened of rapid change and those who insist that the memory of those who died in December demands just that," explained one European diplomat soon after the votes were counted. "Unlike long-established democracies, there is little sign here in the Balkans that the losing side will sit back and accept things."

Because the students played such a crucial role in the fighting that made the revolution, many Westerners believed that their views were being too glibly dismissed by Front leaders, who also displayed too open an appetite for power. Before the police finally moved in, one of the University Square protesters vowed: "Mr Iliescu is trying to

impose Gorbachev-style communism with a smiling face and we as students will never accept that."

The demonstration which, for 53 days and nights blocked Bucharest's main commercial thoroughfare, was a symbol — as long as it remained untouched — that the new government was at least prepared to allow some opposition opinion to flourish, however quirky and uncomfortable its methods.

But once safely elected, Mr Iliescu's team never displayed any convincing enthusiasm for pluralism, reserving particular venom for the three revived pre-war parties which contested the poll with hopelessly limited resources and lost. To Romanians and outside observers, it was patently obvious that many of the other parties who contested the poll were Front clones, set up, like so much in post-Ceausescu Romania, to give the impression of liberal change, when, in fact, so little has been permitted to take place. Forecasts of instability, which

followed the formation of the new parliament, were based on evidence that the country is now split between those who detest communism and those who are prepared to tolerate a version of it.

As one disillusioned science student commented as soon as the Front's computer predicted landslide was more than confirmed by the raw voting returns: "There is now every recipe for a civil war. The students have not got the weapons, but they have the determination to see that the communists will never run our lives again."

It was the government that prompted the showdown with its dawn raid on a demonstration which had come physically to resemble a squalid, unhygienic and underpopulated Woodstock. But few will predict how easily it will be able to put the lid back on the Pandora's box that has now been opened.

Leading article, page 15  
New Romania, page 18

## Moscow puts off increase in bread price until autumn

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

The threefold rise in the price of bread and bakery products which precipitated panic-buying in Moscow and other Soviet cities last month has been postponed, at least until the autumn. The decision was taken by the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, yesterday after a tense and angry debate.

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, whose economic reform programme had stipulated that the price rise should come into force on July 1, was not in the Supreme Soviet to hear the outcome. In his place, Yuri Maslyukov, one of his deputies and the chairman of the state planning committee, defended the need for the increase, but the government had clearly recognised after the opening of the debate on Wednesday that the measure stood no chance of being approved.

A new resolution was submitted, which made no reference to approving the price rise even in principle, recommending that the whole question be handed back to the Council of Ministers — in effect the government — for consultation.

Over the summer the government is supposed to solicit the views of the administrations of all 15 Soviet republics and return with new proposals — or the same proposals agreed by the republic leaders — when the Supreme Soviet reconvenes in the autumn. The plan to increase the price of bread was universally unpopular and provided a good illustration of the distance between Soviet economists and administrators on the one hand and ordinary people on the other.

Not only is bread one of the few commodities that is both affordable and regularly available, but it also has strong emotional connotations in the Soviet Union where hunger has been a recent reality. Government ministers had argued, however, that the price of bread — which was last increased in 1962 — had to be raised, first to cut wastage and second to help pay for the

increase in the price paid to farmers by the state for grain. Increases of up to 95 per cent were announced earlier this year in an attempt to raise domestic production.

The second reason was hard to understand because the government had pledged that people would be compensated in full for the price rise and some people cynically regarded the exercise as an experiment: if the bread price went through without an outcry, then the other price rises would probably be accepted.

Mr Ryzhkov, however, insisted that he and other senior officials had been bombarded with letters and telegrams complaining about the wastage of bread and expressing a willingness to pay ten times the current price if that would change attitudes. This view found little sympathy either in the Supreme Soviet or in the country at large. The government could not even count on the support of the agricultural lobby, because the price rises for their produce had already been approved and were not linked in any way to the change in the bread price.

The decision to pass the bread price rise back to the government means that although its economic reform package has been accepted in principle, all its practical proposals have now been sent back for further study.

The tense debate on the price of bread obscured the founding of a new agricultural body, the Farmers' Union, which held its inaugural congress in Moscow. The meeting, which some had seen as a chance for the farmers to break out of the collective farm structure and embrace the land-leasing and family farm concepts encouraged by President Gorbachev, seems instead to have turned into a club for those wanting to retain collective and state farms. The congress contrasted sharply with a meeting of leaseholders and co-operative farmers held in the Kremlin last month and addressed approvingly by Mr Gorbachev.



Crumb of comfort: A woman buying bread in Moscow yesterday shortly before the Soviet parliament voted to postpone a tripling of the price

## Shellfish disaster raises nuclear fears

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ENVIRONMENTAL specialists from all over the Soviet Union have been drafted in to determine the cause of an ecological disaster which has already assumed political overtones.

Over the past month more than five million dead starfish, about a hundred dead seals, and walrus and other creatures have been washed up on the shores of the White Sea in the Russian far north.

The dead marine life is reported to be scattered over many square kilometres near the port of Archangel just south of the Arctic Circle. The first starfish came ashore during a storm at the end of May, but more have been washed up with every tide. Sea mammals arriving on the shore alive are said to be behaving strangely.

Last week, quantities of crabs and molluscs, which are said to be more resistant to pollution than starfish, started to appear among the corpses and an emergency government commission was set up to investigate. According to a recent report, fish such as cod, smelt and dogfish, that usually

frequent waters on the edge of the bay, are no longer to be found there. Local fishermen, waiting for the annual herring catch, are said to be concerned that the herring will stay away this year.

While the cause of the disaster is still officially a mystery, the Soviet public thought otherwise. Accustomed to being kept in the dark about such matters, they immediately linked it with the loss of a nuclear submarine, the Komsomolets, off the nearby Kola peninsula at the end of last year. For people terrified by the Chernobyl accident, the true effects of which are only now being made known, the scale of the devastation on the shores of the White Sea could have been caused by only one thing: radiation.

Samples of sea water, soil and plankton have been sent to specialist laboratories in Leningrad and other centres. The government commission, which is based in Archangel, has tested several theories, but says all the results so far have been negative.

The first theory was that a

sudden change in the temperature or salt content of the water might have been to blame. But this was excluded when tests on the dead starfish showed both to have been normal.

After initially rejecting the radiation theory as untenable, the commission now says that radiation tests have been conducted and proved negative, although further samples have been sent to Moscow and other specialist centres for more sophisticated examination. Two dead seal pups have been dissected for signs of congenital abnormality or infection, but nothing has been found.

A further hypothesis is a variation of the nuclear submarine theory, and maintains that the fish were killed by a leak of rocket fuel as the result of a submarine accident last December. In a statement, however, the Commander of the Northern Fleet said that there was no leakage of fuel. He was quoted as saying that an abortive missile launch last December had resulted in the generation of a large amount of gas, but that this could not

have caused the death of starfish six months later. The latest theory was given credence earlier this week by the official Communist Party paper, Pravda, which suggested that the culprit might be mustard gas buried in the sea at the end of the war. It said that the Archangel laboratory investigating the disaster had received a series of anonymous telephone calls, alleging that three containers of the gas had been dumped in the sea as naval forces were being scaled down in the 1950s. Perhaps not surprisingly, the local KGB was said to have found no record that any dangerous substance had been dumped at sea.

While no further results are expected before next week at the earliest, the disaster has served only to heighten the post-Chernobyl fear of nuclear energy in any form. Local people held an unprecedented series of demonstrations and threatened a general strike in a harbour near the Soviet Pacific port of Sovetskaya Gavan last week, after the authorities announced plans for a centre for scrapping

nuclear submarines. In northern and central Russia a campaign has been mounted to prevent the Arctic island of Novaya Zemlya from being expanded as a site for nuclear tests.

A government commission is also reported to be considering the island for the burial of nuclear waste. Many people suspect that Novaya Zemlya has long been used secretly for the disposal of nuclear waste, although officials concede only that solid nuclear waste has been buried in the sea, and promise to produce a map in due course.

LONDON: The Soviet Union has for the first time deployed a squadron of MiG fighters on the Kola peninsula in the Arctic, Norwegian military authorities said yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

The new deployment of 40 jet fighters was seen by the Norwegian defence command as further evidence of the Soviet Union's modernisation programme at its huge Arctic military complex. The Soviet fighters appear to have been deployed to the Kola peninsula from Debrecen, Hungary.

## Nato slow in agreeing change

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WARSAW Pact defence ministers began a two-day meeting at Strausberg, outside East Berlin, yesterday. Rainer Eppelmann, the East German minister, said the talks were aimed at eliminating the "confrontational element" of their founding treaty.

The meeting is taking place in East Germany, where the largest Soviet garrison is stationed and where the pact's last real tactical struggle with Nato is taking place. With the changeover from a military alliance to a predominantly political grouping already agreed, the ministers hope to sign a protocol at the end of their meeting today, having reviewed the required strength of its forces. If they complete this review, they will be ahead of Nato, which still lacks political guidance on restructuring its forces in line with the needs of a radically altered Europe.

A draft plan of how to organise Nato forces has been worked out. It accepts that a significant reduction of forces will be able to face the reduced threat from the East, with the army probably restructured into multinational corps, capable of quick deployment to surround any attacking force.



Rainer Eppelmann, left, of East Germany, and Dmitri Yazov, his Soviet counterpart, at the meeting of Warsaw Pact defence ministers in Strausberg yesterday

and the four Second World War allies, who are overseeing the external security side of German reunification. The outcome of the Warsaw Pact discussions will form part of the background of another meeting between Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Eduard Shevardnadze, the West German and Soviet foreign ministers, on Monday. After seeing the battlefield of Brest in Belorussia together last Monday, they will be meeting in the Peace Hall of the old town hall in Munster to continue discussions on how to calm Soviet fears about a united Germany.

The future troop strength of a united German army will be central to that, although both

men now agree that this must be decided in negotiations between the two alliances, and that this is a key reason for keeping the Warsaw Pact in being for the present, even though it no longer has any military meaning. Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister, has already indicated that in future there should be no joint high command for the pact, and that in the assessing its future, "the lowest common denominator is the word 'review', and the outcome of the review could be either that it continues or does not continue".

Herr de Maizière wants a greatly reduced East German army and has promised to

## Bulgarians reject parallels with Romania's problems

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

FEW people in the Bulgarian Socialist party office paid attention as the television news came on. Then the news turned to Romania, and a hush fell. People shook their heads and said how sorry they were for the Romanians.

All agree that Romanian-style violence could not happen here. People say Romania and Bulgaria have developed so differently that there is little comparison. There are none the less points of similarity. Bulgaria has just elected a parliament in which the old Communist party, now the Socialist party, looks to have more than half the seats after capturing 47 per cent of the vote.

In Romania, communist and socialist are dirty words, but the National Salvation Front, whose presidential candidate, Ion Iliescu, won an overwhelming victory with about 85 per cent of the vote, is essentially a reformist communist party like Bulgaria's. Violeta Stochkova, a Social-

ist party worker, said: "Things before were very different in our two countries. Our leaders take decades to disappear, such as the ban on abortion, with no parallel in Bulgaria. The bitterness felt by millions in Romania has been combined with the blood spilled in the revolution. For those who fought alongside those who died in University Square last December there is no more fear, only anti-communist militancy and a determination to see their struggle through."

The end of old-style communism in Bulgaria was quite different. Mr Zhivkov was removed in an internal party coup last November for which the new leaders took credit. After some prodding from the new opposition groups the communists then agreed to end one-party rule and set the country on a path of major reform.

In contrast with Romania, some of these opposition groups, such as Ecologosost, existed before the fall of Mr Zhivkov and their experience played a valuable role in a changed world.

The main lesson, the need for unity, was transferred to the election campaign when the UDF held 16 parties and movements together.

The main opposition forces in Romania were unable to work effectively with each other.

BULGARIAN ELECTION RESULTS			
Final official results of first round of voting for Grand National Assembly, with 200 seats decided by direct election and 200 by proportional representation.			
Party	Direct	PR	% of total vote
Bulgarian Socialist Party	75	97	47.15
Union of Democratic Forces	32	75	36.2
Bulgarian Agrarian Party	0	16	8.03
Others (details below)	12		
- Movement for Rights and Freedoms	9	12	6.03
- Social Democratic Party	1		
- Fatherland Union	1		
- Independent	1		
Seats in June 17 runoff	81		

Redrawing the lines, page 14

Leading article, page 15

**FAR**  
In classic revolutionary style, the true heroes of the last year. There is a lot of the nocturnal, but the opposition support the best possible state boulevard student seven weeks. "I'm crushing a 'fascist' government under thousands of streets Communists. By yesterday, the wheeled, and the only free national here. Ammunition found below the Reichstag fire. National Peasants' when he telephoned yesterday. Mr. Karm to trust President has proved true so the 'total destruction' democracy in Romania. A purge of the h survived the Ceausescu ruled out. The Transylvania must be allowed. The light press and broadcast convince the people. Events said, Romania have been well-deline inspired horror stories. 'fascist' whom the yesterday, they read what happens to crime. Provided Romania. Western and Mr. Karm back the case. Since the 1972 bombing of the British Army Yacht Club in West Berlin. The East German authorities are attempting to complete extradition proceedings for Frau Viett and Frau Albrecht within a week but this is complicated by the lack of legal basis between the two German states. Frau Viett is being defended by Wolfgang Vogel, an East German lawyer renowned for his role in spy exchanges and as the lawyer defending Erich Honecker, the former leader. Frau Viett has been living under an assumed identity in Dresden and Magdeburg since 1983, having earlier escaped from jail twice in the West. Under questioning she told police that she had had contact with Frau Albrecht and other 'groupings' since her arrival in East Germany, but that both women had considered themselves 'retired'. The interior ministry yesterday released a statement by Frau Albrecht describing how she was ordered by faction leaders to go underground in East Germany at the end of the 1970s. After her arrival in East Berlin she was contacted by a man who said that he was acting in the name of the East German government and that, while the state did not approve of the methods of the faction, it 'supported the anti-imperialist aims' of the organisation. The Stasi then arranged for her to receive a flat and a university place near Dresden. Frau Albrecht said that she had kept in touch with the Stasi through a telephone number but has denied that she continued work either as a terrorist or an agent. At the end of last year, she said, she was visited by a man who told her that the security service was being dissolved 'and that I would have to look after my own affairs from now on'. The information leading to the arrest is thought to have come from former Stasi members, some of whom have been taken up by the East German CID. Herr Diestel said that the intimacy between the Stasi and the faction suggested that contacts had been approved 'at the highest level'. West German security sources have repeated their claims in the past few days that East Germany served as an important international connection for Western terrorists, including the IRA. Activists of all political persuasions were given refuge in safe houses, and are said to have been issued with visas in East Berlin to move on to other destinations.

The Office of Population has discovered that most of the people who are over 60 are women in both the types of communities. This is commonplace in scientific truth, with applying a baseline of changes in national economies. By just how many depart from the norm in what way, has not been thoroughly investigated. The need is greatest when the need is greatest. In any case, on average, to what would have been a way food induces guilt in what we eat has as a glimpse of this truth. To explain this truth, there are many apparitions. Apparently the changed habits were new. Big Brother was watching. But about what the number of calories in a meal was below a 'normal' group was common. There seems either a nibbling on the 'cooper's' approach.



## Box office flop detected for old-hat Dick Tracy

OUR SMALLER STORES MAY NOT HAVE A FULL SELECTION OF THESE PRODUCTS. IF YOU NEED HELP, CHECK WITH THE STORE MANAGER. HE'LL DO ALL HE CAN TO ASSIST. MOST BULKY PURCHASES ARE SOLD IN CARRY HOME PACKS FOR EASY HOME ASSEMBLY. ALL SIZES APPROXIMATE.



# Burma junta rules out political role for Suu Kyi

From Neil Kelly in Bangkok

THE Burmese military regime will attempt to exclude Aung San Suu Kyi from any position in a new government, according to foreign diplomats in Rangoon, although her opposition party won 80 per cent of the contested seats in the election three weeks ago.

They have learned from officials that the junta is determined that the new constitution will ban from politics any person who receives support in any form from a foreigner or foreign organization.

That would eliminate Daw Suu Kyi from politics, the military's aim since she said the party would not accept that. She is the daughter of General Aung San, the national hero who led Burma to independence, and has always kept her nationality despite marriage to an Englishman, Dr Michael Aris, Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. She lived for many years in England and opponents say that she cannot be a true Burmese because she has the same rights as an Englishwoman.

She was placed under house arrest last July, allegedly for endangering national security. The authorities banned her from the election and said she would be held for a year or longer. After her party's election victory, which is seen as a popular vote for her, officials said that there might be no early release.

Ohn Gyan, the deputy foreign minister, said the government had enough information to put her on trial for maintaining contacts with "underground people" and trying to divide the army. Rangoon residents say her continued detention would probably cause an uprising against the army on the scale of the 1988 demonstrations.

Officials of the victorious National League for Democracy say they will seek meetings with the military leaders when the election results are announced, probably in the next few days. The two sides have had no direct contact yet.

Without Daw Suu Kyi

## Regime seeks to rescue economy

From Mary Kay Magistad in Rangoon

THE journalistic moustache of the Burmese junta, the *Working People's Daily*, yesterday allowed itself the boast that "never in the history of modern Myanmar (Burma) has there been so much accomplished in such a short time".

The self-congratulations referred not to allowing the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years last month, in which pro-government parties were soundly beaten, but to attempts to haul the nation's battered economy back toward respectability.

After 26 years of xenophobic socialism under Ne Win, Burma is in dire need of an economic overhaul, Burmese and Western economists agree. The general resigned in the midst of pro-democracy demonstrations in July 1988, but his legacy remains.

Inflation is at about 60 per cent, the International Monetary Fund estimates. The black-market rate of the kyat, the currency, is about ten times the official rate. The minimum wage has risen twice in two years, but still stands at only 15 kyats, about £1.50, a day. This will not buy a dozen eggs at market prices, which are often based on the black-market rate.

Since seizing power in September 1988, the State Law and Order Restoration Council has managed to increase its foreign reserves from a paltry \$10 million during the mass pro-democracy demonstrations of 1988 to some \$560 million (£327 million) now.

About half of the surplus came from selling some of the Burmese embassy grounds in Tokyo. Another \$50 million or so came from signature bonuses, with oil companies invited to come in for exploration and drilling. These include the British Croft Exploration, Amoco and Unocal from the United States, the Australian BHP, the Dutch Shell Exploration, and the Japanese Idemitsu.

But the council has not been satisfied with merely having a fat foreign exchange account. It has also tried to give Rangoon the aura of prosperity through a "beautification" programme. Many Burmese are not convinced the scheme is in their best interests.

"If it moves, shoot it. If it doesn't, paint it white," one

there, other leaders fear they may be no match for the government in negotiations. She is also needed to ensure the unity of the league, which is made up of several disparate groups, including student activists, civilians, and members of the military. Some former communists are also influential in the league.

When they confront the military rulers, league officials will ask first for the release of Daw Suu Kyi and of 400 party officials and members who are imprisoned without trial, and will demand an early transfer of power. If the prisoners are not set free immediately, the issue would be the first for the new parliament to consider.

There are fears that the military will seize on any sign of discord in the party to justify postponement of the transfer of power. In similar circumstances in 1960, the military regime headed by General Ne Win delayed the handover to the elected government for almost a year.

The military says power will not be transferred until the new parliament has written and endorsed a new constitution which apparently will need the approval of the senior army men. A diplomat said it seemed they wanted guarantees that military influence in national affairs would be maintained, their own privileges would be safeguarded, and assurances that none would face prosecution for human rights violations and other crimes.

Thai officials and businessmen who have developed close relations with the Rangoon regime are confident that the army will retain wide powers, including sufficient influence to protect valuable contracts which Thailand made to obtain timber and fish from Burma. Those agreements have been condemned by Daw Suu Kyi and her supporters.

At a meeting this week in Burma, Karen and other ethnic rebels declared that they were ready to negotiate a peace settlement with the league which, the rebels said, genuinely represented the people.



Michael Gore, the British ambassador to Liberia, right, and David Stevenson, the military attaché, planning the route to be taken out of the country to Sierra Leone by a convoy carrying British and Commonwealth citizens. Most foreigners have already left because of the civil war, which has

also led to tribal bloodletting. The government and rebels have called for a halt to attacks on civilians, but a statement issued by the two sides after nine hours of talks in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, stopped short of declaring a ceasefire in the conflict which has claimed hundreds of civil-

ian lives. It called on both sides "to bring to an immediate end the killings, molestation and destruction of properties of innocent civilians and other non-combatants". The rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia invaded from neighbouring Ivory Coast in December in a bid to overthrow

President Doe. The rebels, led by Charles Taylor, a dissident civil servant, are 20 to 30 miles from the Liberian capital, Monrovia. The two sides appear far apart on key issues but the talks, which began on Tuesday, do not seem on the verge of collapse.

## Skeleton puzzle in Malaysia

From Reuters in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA has handed over a collection of skeletons to the American embassy here to establish if they are the remains of American servicemen killed in Vietnam or — as seems increasingly likely — a hoax by desperate boat people who have used the play in the past to win resettlement.

A Red Crescent official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the remains of 28 people and US army identification tags were handed over to the embassy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"It was told that the embassy has found three of the identification tags to be fictitious," he said.

An embassy official said: "We have no comments on the case. Any comment will come out of Washington."

The Red Crescent official said two of the skeletons were without skulls but the rest were complete.

Malaysian police earlier said the bones were the remains of 30 American servicemen.

They were found on a boat carrying nine Vietnamese men which landed at the southern coastal village of Tanjung Sedili on Monday.

The nine told fishermen they had sailed from South Vietnam with the skeletons kept below deck in plastic bags inside welded compartments at the bottom of four barrels.

The nine said they wanted to go to the United States, the preferred destination for many of the thousands of Vietnamese who have fled their country by boat since the communist takeover in 1975.

Vietnamese boat people have found it much harder to secure permanent overseas resettlement in recent years, and are now mainly regarded as economic migrants.

The nine are being questioned in the coastal town of Mersing, from where Malaysian authorities collected the skeletons.

Their 50ft boat carried markings in English which read "USA Remains in My Boat" and "This Boat Have USA Army Remains".

● HANOI: Talks between Vietnam and China on reconciling their differences, mainly over Cambodia, ended with no real progress, official sources said yesterday.

Peking's assistant foreign minister, Xu Dunxin, flew to Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam without any concrete results from three days of meetings with Vietnam's foreign minister, Nguyen Co Thach in Hanoi. (Reuters)

## Shamir under pressure from US as peace prospects fade

From Richard Owen in Jerusalem

AFTER only three days in office, the right-wing Israeli government of Yitzhak Shamir yesterday took on a beleaguered air as it fended off allegations from the Arab world, the Labour opposition and, above all, the United States that its hardline attitudes were undermining any remaining prospect of peace with the Palestinians.

Amid reports that Mr Shamir might go to Washington himself to repair Israeli-US relations, Avi Pazner, Mr Shamir's media adviser, accused the Americans of judging the new government "before it has had time to decide how to proceed with the peace process".

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said Arab accusations that Israel was preparing for a Middle East war were "totally baseless".

But Israeli commentators said the presence in the government of far-right former generals such as Rafi Eitan and Ariel Sharon was encouraging anti-Arab attitudes in the "explosive" atmosphere created by the killing on May 20 of seven Arab labourers by a deranged Israeli gunman.

Mr Shamir this week caused a storm by telling the *Jerusalem Post* that — in contrast to the plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue put forward by James Baker, the US Secretary of State — Israel would only accept Palestinians as negotiating partners if they agreed to the

Israel concept of "autonomy" or limited self-rule. Coming on top of the government's exclusion of east Jerusalem Arabs from any future Palestinian elections, this appeared to put paid to American hopes for Israeli-Palestinian talks on a broad peace agenda. In Congress, Mr Baker gave the White House telephone number and told Israel: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

Mr Pazner reacted by saying that new governments were normally given a "period of grace" of 100 days before their actions were judged, "but we have not even been given 100 hours". He said that the *Jerusalem Post* had "misquoted" Mr Shamir, but the newspaper denied this.

Diplomats noted that Mr Shamir had previously sought to play down controversial comments. In January, his observation that "a big Israel" was needed to absorb a massive influx of Soviet Jews was widely construed to mean that Israel under his leadership would retain a permanent hold on the occupied West Bank and Gaza, thus forever denying demands by the Palestinians for independence.

A million Israelis working in the public sector added to the government's troubles yesterday by going on strike. The Histadrut, the trade union organisation, said the strike was about pay, not politics, but the Histadrut is firmly

aligned with the Labour party, and the timing of the strike appears calculated to exert maximum pressure on a fledgling administration. The strike, which closed schools, banks, post offices, nearly all factories and Tel Aviv airport, is likely to cost the country \$100 million (£67 million).

Israeli newspapers yesterday published the finding of a Hebrew University study showing that, although Israeli teenagers professed to believe in "democratic and humanitarian principles", the vast majority see "nothing wrong" with the deportation, or "transfer", of Palestinians from the occupied territories as a solution to the conflict.

"Transfer" is a policy openly favoured by far-right ministers such as Mr Eitan. Seventy-two per cent of youths questioned agreed with the statement: "Whatever we do the Arabs will hate us and will want to annihilate us."

The United Nations Works and Relief Agency yesterday protested about an incident in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday in which an Israeli army officer hurled a tear-gas canister into a UN clinic containing 66 Arab children, most of them babies. The army said stones had been thrown at a patrol from within the building, but gave the officer, a reserve lieutenant, 10 days imprisonment for a "serious deviation" from standing orders.

Diplomats said that Mr Shamir could risk a "snub"

from the White House if he went to Washington in the present atmosphere. In March last year, he presented President Bush with his plan for Palestinian elections. But in November Mr Shamir was kept waiting in Washington by Mr Bush because of American anger over "obstacles" put in the way of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue by Mr Shamir's Likud party.

● Boy stabbed: An Arab woman stabbed an Israeli boy, aged 11, at a bus stop in a Jewish area of Arab east Jerusalem yesterday, police said.

A right-wing parliamentarian said the rare stabbing of a child resulted from government leniency towards Arabs and called for their expulsion. The attack in East Talpiot, a Jewish area, was the second stabbing of a Jew in three days in east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the 1967 war. Idan Mizrahi was in a stable condition after an operation at a local hospital and would be released today, hospital officials said.

Geula Cohen, a Knesset member and leader of the far-right Tebiya party, patrolled the village in a police car and called for Palestinians to be expelled. "All these towns should know, and should be warned, that every terrorist action from their village will cause the government to take all the village and deport and expel them behind the border," she told reporters.



Precious moment: Lost in admiration, a Japanese woman at a Tokyo jewellery exhibition gazing at the 164.52-carat Deerpene diamond, thought to be one of the five largest diamonds in the world

## Islamic fundamentalists ahead in Algerian polls

From Susan MacDonald in Algiers

ALGERIANS continued their long wait throughout yesterday to learn the final results of Tuesday's first-ever multi-party local elections, in which the Islamic Salvation Front is said by the government to be in the lead.

The lack of newspapers on the street, officially due to a distribution strike, added to the jokes circulating about ruling National Liberation Front officials in all-night sessions trying to make the polling figures match predictions.

"The best Algerian cooking is that which takes the longest to prepare," said a senior opposition figure. Aware of the jokes, Muhammad Mohammed, the interior minister, has gone out of his way to explain that the delay is

due to ruling party ignorance on multi-party election vote-counting.

Figures so far released show a confused picture of how many Algerians actually backed the Islamic fundamentalist party. But the suggested figure of a more than 40 per cent abstention rate does not stand out in a country familiar, under the strict one-party system abolished last year, with turning out to vote only when ordered to do so.

Disillusionment after 28 years of one-party politics is one suggested reason, but the call to boycott the election by the head of the Socialist Forces Front, Hocine Ait Ahmed, is another key reason. His call was widely followed by his many followers. Mr

Hocine, a Berber from the Kabylie area, is one of the "new historians" — the original band of Algerian leaders who organised the eight-year war against France which resulted in Algerian independence in 1962.

He and Ahmed Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, are the best-known such leaders still living. Both played key roles in the power struggle that went on in the early sixties following independence, and after years in exile, see the chance to make a comeback.

But while Mr Ben Bella is still in exile issuing stern warnings, Mr Ait Ahmed, now aged 64, returned to Algeria last year to a hero's welcome from people to whom his name is still magic, especially in the Kabylie.

The beautiful mountainous Kabylie region is one of the poorest in Algeria, but is the centre for the Berber people — the original Mediterranean North Africans who were then outnumbered by successive Arab invasions.

Relations between Berbers and Arabs have often been distrustful. Mr Ait Ahmed's return and the formation of another Kabylie-based party, the Cultural and Democratic Assembly, has opened up again the question of Berber identity and national recognition for the Berber language alongside Arabic and French.

Critics blame Mr Ait Ahmed for opening the way to the Islamic Front success by abstaining. "I stick by my boycott call. I will not take part in FLN manipulations," he said. "There is no local government in Algeria. Each mayor is a state official under the FLN."

## Japanese writer throws the book at America ... again

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

HAVING scored a direct hit in Washington and on the bestseller lists with a first assault on the United States, Shintaro Ishihara, the ambitious Japanese writer turned politician, has penned a punchy sequel.

America remains as racist, wrong-headed and pitiable as ever in Mr Ishihara's provocative prose. This time he also has a second round of ammunition for Europe.

The new book will not smooth feathers in Washington. Congressmen are still snarling over Mr Ishihara's previous taunt that, since Japan's microchips are needed to make both American and Soviet nuclear missiles fire straight, Tokyo holds the balance of power. That Mr Ishihara recently ran for — and still

covets — Japan's premiership has fanned America's fears.

But Japanese readers' appetite for this bravado appears insatiable. The *Japan that Can Say No*, Mr Ishihara's first nationalistic salvo, took six months to clear 300,000 copies. His latest book, *Nevertheless, Japan Can Still Say No*, topped 300,000 sales and the bestseller lists within a week of publication. His co-authors are Shiochi Watanabe, an English professor at Tokyo's Sophia University, and Kazuhisa Ogawa, a commentator on military affairs.

Mr Ogawa argues that America has turned Japan into a fortress to serve Washington's interests, not Tokyo's. Mr Watanabe points to the superiority of Japanese culture, America's racism and the decline of Western civilisation. For his part, Mr Ishihara sees signs of Western

racism, the West's decay and Japanese superiority almost everywhere.

Japan was civilised before Europe; America cannot come to terms with its decline; without Japanese technology and Japanese cash the Channel Tunnel would not meet in the middle; Eastern Europe also needs technology and money, and Japan has the most of both, he writes.

In a chapter in which he describes America as class-ridden and puts the blame for this on America's racism, Mr Ishihara writes: "America has a self-centred mentality. Americans flatter themselves that the world revolves around them and they find it hard to accept that people with different coloured skin can top their success. Racism is deep-rooted in the Western mind. When Americans accuse Japan of 'being unfair', what

they are really saying is 'follow us humbly'."

The politician says that Europe's fetish for treating the aristocracy and the common people differently shows it to be an even more discriminatory society than America. France, because of its chilliness towards Japanese imports, gets a special commendation for racism. But the whole of Europe comes under fire in the book.

His theme that the time has come for Japan to abandon its postwar stepchild mentality and speak up for itself remains his most cherished.

"America pulled out Japan's fangs after World War Two," Mr Ishihara writes, "and filled the gaps with two uncomfortable false teeth: the US-Japan security treaty and the Japanese constitution." Both of these are designed to keep Tokyo under

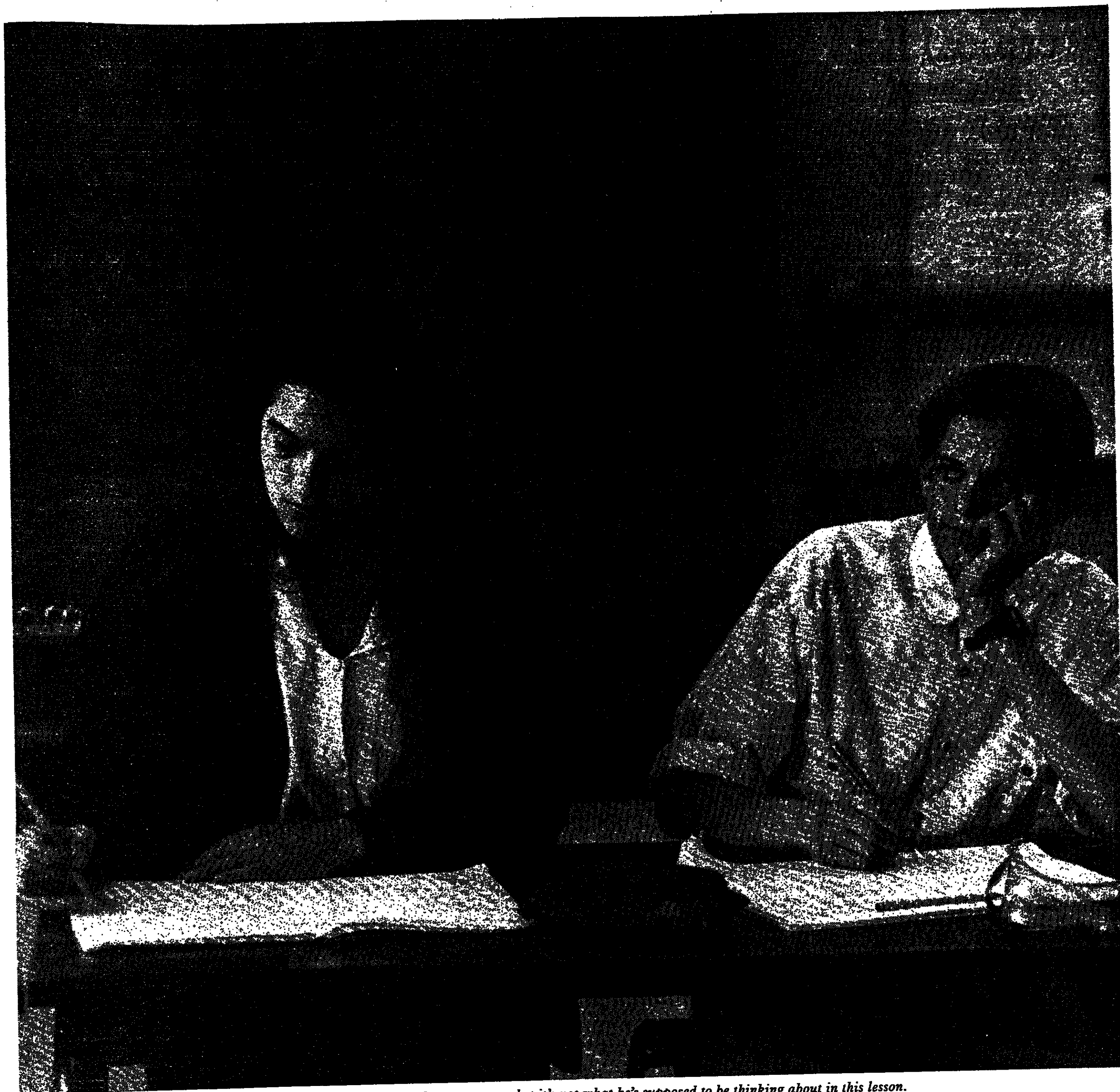
Washington's thumb, forcing Japan to pay towards the upkeep of American bases in Japan even though "America's nuclear strategy is programmed to protect North America first" and "the system is set up in such a way that it could not save Japan in time if Japan were under nuclear attack".

What really galls America though, according to Mr Ishihara, is that it has itself to blame for Japan's economic lead. Japanese companies are more efficient because "American companies still look 10 minutes ahead, while Japanese businesses look 10 years ahead". What has made Japan a rich financial power, able to pick up Van Goghs and Hollywood studios, is America's decision to force Japan to strengthen the yen, swelling Japan's buying power abroad.



Tamil  
clashes  
kill  
1,000

amentals  
gerian pol



Whatever he's thinking about, you can bet it's not what he's supposed to be thinking about in this lesson.

# IT'S QUITE A CHALLENGE MAKING FRACTIONAL DISTILLATION MORE INTERESTING THAN SEX.

The question of how crude oil is separated into its component parts is not, needless to say, one of the most important things on the mind of the average 14 year old. It is however one of the important things on the GCSE science syllabus. Finding a way of breathing life into it is what teaching is all about.

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# Taken off the critical list

Philip Howard

Unpromisingly, the letter started "Dear Phillip". To spell Philip with two P's is naïf, and etymologically incorrect. The roots of the word are evident: "phil" (Greek for lover of) plus "ip" (abbreviated from *hippos*, Greek for horse, nasty brutes).

"Dear Phillip, I am sure that you would like to see me at an exclusive dinner we are giving at the Harpo Club to meet world-wide bestselling author, Charlene Tampon..." I have a system for such letters. I file them in my big, brown, plastic pending tray, and Jack comes and empties it at lunchtime. Like most publishers' publicity material, the letter was full of lies, half-truths and Janus words that mean the opposite of what they appear to say. "Exclusive" is a word that has been rendered meaningless by its abuse in the inexpensive newspapers. It is a vacuous ornamental flag that you stick above a story which you have nicked from a rival tabloid, or to which no other newspaper even in the jokey world of media values would consider giving space. If you have to label a piece "exclusive", it cannot be worth reading. A good newspaper needs no such label, because everything in it is by definition exclusive and better than anywhere else.

"Bestseller" is as vacuous a word for publishers as "exclusive" is for journalists. The only way to work out whether a book is a bestseller is for all publishers to reveal the print-runs for all their books, and the number of returns over the subsequent year or so. Publishers will never tell anybody either of these figures, preferring to do their business in the imprecise world of hype. All bestseller lists for books are inaccurate, corrupt, and, which is worst of all, irrelevant. An accurate bestseller list, which cannot be compiled without the figures from publishers, would be deeply boring, and would not vary from week to week. Every week the bestsellers would be the same: *The Jane Fonda Pop-Up Book of Aerobic Jogging*, *Thrills & Boo* genteel porn, travel and cookery "books" ghosted for television "celebrities" (ie autocue-readers), the latest royal candy-floss. There would be no real books on it. The only bestseller lists that are any good are the ones compiled for *The Bookseller* and a few newspapers by Peter Harland of Bookwatch. He manages it by asking a broad range of proper booksellers what sold best last week, and ignoring the preponderant weight of sales in station bookshops and improper bookshops. The inaccuracies in the replies tend to balance each other out statistically, he says.

You have only to talk to a bookseller in an unguarded moment to learn that bestseller lists are corrupt. Working out sales for last week is a tiresome chore, often allocated to the office junior on

Friday afternoon. Booksellers are as secretive about their business as publishers. Claiming that a book was a bestseller in their shop last week can depend upon such irrelevant factors as what the trade press has decided, in its infinite unwisdom, to attach the label bestseller to, which rep has bought the manager lunch lately, and which book the buyer has ordered too many of.

Some years ago we had an editor from the school of new journalism that prefers lists to joined-up prose. He wanted a list of bestsellers, so we got him one, over my half-dead body. "I resign, I resign," "Promises, Phillip, promises." We arranged with a chain of booksellers to give us a weekly computer print-out of retail sales across the counter in about a dozen bookshops, and trade sales to about 200 other outlets. It was as I feared. In the first week's print-out the first book that *The Times* had reviewed (and, by definition, the first book worth reviewing) came 63rd on the list.

But at least, I thought, our computer was honest. Our list of bestsellers might be boring and predictable, and consist of books that no one could actually read, but it was, I believed, a reliable count of an uninteresting statistic. We paid the booksellers £2,000 a year for this service. They should have paid us £5,000 for the puff.

Then the admirable Quentin Oates, reviewer of reviewers for *The Bookseller*, wrote a characteristically acidulous column, in which he said that all bestseller lists are melodramatic fiction, and that he was prepared to bet that two books, unmentioned by any of the lists, had actually sold more copies in the previous week than any of the so-called bestsellers: *The Guinness Book of Records* and *The White Hotel* by D.M. Thomas, which had just come out in paperback. The next week I lost my faith in the honesty of our bestseller list. That bloody computer could read. Guess which books came first and second in our list. Right on.

But the most fundamental flaw in bestseller lists is that they are irrelevant. *Times* readers are grown-up book-readers. They read books regardless, and they are going to make up their own minds about what books to read from reviews, and their liking for an author, and by word of mouth. They are not going to join the absurd annual Gadarene rush of people who do not read literary fiction for the rest of the year to buy the winner of the Booker or the Whitbread prize, in order not to read it, but to leave it lying around to impress the Joneses. If bestseller lists were accurate, they would be of mild interest sociologically, revealing what most of the nation is reading. Since they are inaccurate, corrupt, and irrelevant, their only use is in publishers' hype.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

You will, of course, remember the opening sequence of *A Matter of Life and Death*. How could you not? It was a seminal moment in the history of telecommunication. No one who cares about phones could ever forget it. I wonder sometimes whether even Powell and Pressburger realized the magnitude of what they had stumbled upon: they probably thought they were just making a film about life and death.

The credits fade to reveal David Niven, piloting his bomber back from Germany. Things are not good. The Germans have taken exception to being assaulted by an actor in a cardboard Lancaster, and set fire to it. Furthermore, Niven has suffered a nasty head wound, as the result of heavy ketchup over the Ruhr. He is not going to make it back. We know this from his smile. It is the smile of a man whose director has just suggested that he should appear to have met with Triumph and Disaster and to be treating those two imposters in just the same way, though not for much longer.

It is at this point that he begins to trawl the ether, seeking some sympathetic voice to say pip-pip to. But nothing negotiates the RT save static — until, suddenly, a girl's voice crackles. It is Kim Hunter, a toothsome American wireless operator: as they chat, her best-selling mouth trembles, her velvet eyes brim, and, even though the skipper has never seen her and can have no inkling that Miss Hunter is a little stunner, they fall in love. It is her voice which enraptures him. It is the last thing he hears as he goes into his terminal plummet.

What follows is two hours of fey tosh, with Niven dangling in limbo while supernatural advocates dispute whether he is alive or dead, until he is duly redeemed by the love of the operator and allowed to resurrect. But none of that mattered. I knew this even at the age of 10, when I tottered, blinking, from the Southgate Odeon. What mattered was the core-truth, which was that you never knew who you might run into at the telephone exchange.

For four decades, that notion

of limitless possibility sustained me. Nor — which has not always been the case with other dreams — did disillusion lie in wait for it with a sockful of sand. I have had some delightful natters, off in the stilly night, with operators; many a chat, flirtatious, comical, subversive, has warmed the wires between us. Could the directory enquiries, who, as their wet thumb flicked the pages, would rabbit revealingly of this and that; could be some reverse-charge hand answering with a mouthful of pork pie, and before you knew it you were into an engaging exchange about nocturnal indulgence, could be just one of those who happened to be giggling as they connected, and you said what's the joke, and she said we're having a bit of a laugh down here. Dearie is getting married Wednesday to this bloke with a peculiar walk, and from there it was but a short step to intimate conspiracies.

It is all over now. There is not a human being left at the nation's switchboards, save the handful required to press the buttons which activate BT's androids. Any enquiry is answered by a computerized thing. The thing says "sorry, the number you want is ex-directory", or "sorry, the number you want is unobtainable", or "the cellphone subscriber you have dialled is away from his instrument at this time". Last evening, after a thing gave me a number, I dialled it, and another thing said: "You have been answered by a fax-link. Please fax now, or hold for a telephone connection." It then played most of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* before putting me through to a third thing which said: "Sorry, the number has been changed to..."

This is a bad business. In the Next Lot, when I am limping home with the tailplane shot away and my chute in tatters, what shall I hear when I punch the plaintive button? "Sorry, this number has been changed to a fax-link and the subscriber is away from the instrument at this time. But if you would care to leave your name and code and number after the *Toccata and Fugue*, we shall try to get back to you as soon as..."

Dr Graham Leonard, Bishop of London, on the challenge facing the next Archbishop of Canterbury

# Christianity's crisis of authority

The next Archbishop of Canterbury will preside over a church in a state of crisis. The crisis is not confined to the Church of England or the Anglican Communion, although it is particularly acute there. In one form or another it is to be found throughout the Christian world, and it concerns the question of authority.

The worshipper in the pew and the person who reads about ecclesiastical affairs in newspapers experiences it in an uncertainty about the reliability and authority of scripture, and neglect amounting at times to denigration of the creeds, combined with astonishing confidence in the sentiments and solutions propounded by this generation, which are pressed with an air of infallibility.

On one side are those who believe that the Christian gospel is revealed by God at a time and in a place of his choosing, through events which are of significance for all time and all generations. They believe that it is the duty of the church, under the judgment of the gospel, to discern how it is to be expressed in different times and

cultures. On the other side are those who believe that the gospel should be adapted to the cultural and intellectual attitudes and demands of successive generations. This standpoint has been described in an Open Synod Group newsletter as follows: "To liberals... nothing is given; everything is provisional. The disciple's task is to apply as best he may whatever insights he can gather into the problems and challenges he faces. The received wisdom of the past, whether from Scripture or Tradition, is but one, but only one, source of such insights... In such a milieu, authoritative answers to any question will be open to suspicion, for there can be no authority other than the tentative response of the individual disciple's conscience."

Anyone is, of course, free to adopt such an attitude, but it cannot be said to reflect the gospel of the New Testament.

Three problems arise. First, it is often assumed, indeed asserted, that those who hold the traditional beliefs are negative and uncreative and seek to apply them rigidly

without thought for contemporary needs. Yet a glance at the history of the church shows how it has best been able to speak to one generation when it has been faithful to the eternal gospel (as, for example, during the Dark Ages), and has failed to do so when it has been locked in the attitudes and thought-forms of a particular generation (as for example, in Europe in the 18th century, when the so-called Enlightenment dismissed revelation, leaving only the reason of man as the touchstone for all human knowledge and behaviour).

The second problem arises because those who adopt the second standpoint have in the past constituted a distinct element in the church, defined as modernists or liberals. Nowadays modernists and liberals have virtually ceased to exist as such, but the attitude they represented has infiltrated all traditions and parties. "Liberal" has ceased to be used as a noun and has become an adjective. So there are traditional Catholics and liberal Catholics, conservative evangelicals and liberal evangeli-

cals. The resulting confusion affects the credibility of the church for, as Alister McGrath has written: "Christianity's relevance depends upon maintaining its identity."

The third problem concerns the content of the gospel which the church offers to the world. In the 17th century, the Church of England was concerned to distinguish between doctrines necessary to salvation and those that could be preached but were not of the essence of the gospel. This distinction is embodied in the Thirty-Nine Articles and in the promises made by candidates in the Ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer. But these days it is often the necessary doctrines, such as the Divinity of Our Lord, which are openly questioned, whereas acceptance is demanded of policies, stances and innovations which are, at best, no more than reflections of contemporary fashion. All too often, as a result, the "hungry sheep look up and are not fed". Of course the gospel must be applied in terms of the demands of ordinary human life, but that can

only happen if we listen to what God says to us about good and evil, life and death, joy and suffering, mercy and forgiveness, judgment and compassion, and what he has done and does eternally to enable us to live as those created in his image and redeemed in Christ.

In purely physical terms the archbishopric makes impossible demands upon any man. But more daunting are the spiritual demands of the crisis in the church. For this reason, he must be first and foremost a man who knows that he is a Christian by grace, not by human achievement, and who lives in constant dependence upon the grace of God. Second, he must, like Christ in his incarnate life, be a man who lives under authority, the authority of the living Lord, whose words and teaching are brought to our remembrance by the Holy Spirit. Only so will he have the inner resources to enable him to live under the judgment of the eternal Word and proclaim the gospel to this generation with courage, conviction and understanding.

# Where to redraw the battle lines for peace in our time

Michael Howard suggests the defence limits Britain should seek as the Nato alliance redefines its role



or may not happen in 1992, we are involved in Europe as never before, and that involvement can only grow. Britain's military contribution to the alliance over the past 40 years has given us not only substantial weight in military decision-making, but a status in the European Community that we might otherwise have found difficult to sustain. Now that Europe is expected to take increased responsibility for its own defence, as the Americans reduce their contribution, a disproportionate reduction in the British commitment would further reduce our political leverage, leaving France and Germany the only major actors on the European scene.

Our force reductions must, therefore, take place *pari passu* with those of our allies, and the negotiations on conventional forces in Europe will provide the framework. However, any agreement reached in Vienna will only formalise the substantial demobilisation dictated by the transformation of the international scene and by the pace of Soviet withdrawal

from Eastern Europe. Logistical and financial constraints will spread the Soviet withdrawal over five or more years, and our own reductions can conveniently keep pace, so there is no desperate hurry. But we must plan for the time when Europe as far as the Priest Marshes can be regarded as friendly, and when there would be plenty of notice if the Soviet Union should cease to be so.

Two military consequences and two political problems arise from this. The first consequence is that allied forces on the central front can be reduced to cadres that can be rapidly reinforced. Much of the British corps will come home, and the army will rely more on reservists than on forces in place.

The second consequence is that use of nuclear weapons against any targets in Europe, East or West, will be unthinkable. Short-range weapons should immediately be scrapped. The Poles would not thank us for rescuing them from a new Soviet invasion by using nuclear weapons. If a nuclear component remains in European

defence (and we would be unwise, for the time being, to abandon it), it should consist solely of weapons capable of striking the territory of the Soviet Union.

The two political problems are all too familiar. Should the forces remaining in Europe be more closely integrated in multinational units, and should nuclear weapons be located on German territory? The case for multinational units is purely political. We heard it in the Sixties, when the Americans pressed their allies to adopt an unnecessary and impractical "multilateral" nuclear force (MLF). The idea behind multinational units is that they would "solve the Germans' problem" by making the presence of Nato forces in East Germany more acceptable to the Soviet Union, and the presence of allied forces in West Germany more acceptable to the Germans. Politically this is superfluous and militarily it is nonsense.

The reduction in size of national contingents may well result in the division, rather than the corps, becoming the largest national unit,

at least for the British, Belgians and Dutch; but national logistical diversity would make it impracticable to carry the process further. If that diversity could be resolved, perhaps by a common logistics and procurement agency under the auspices of the Western European Union, and if communication problems could be overcome, then the arrangement might begin to be practical. There would remain the question of whether it was necessary. My own bet is that such suggestions will go the way of the unattended MLF, for similar reasons; and the sooner the better.

As for the location of nuclear weapons, we have been round that track before too many times. Militarily speaking, perfectly adequate deterrence can be provided by sea-launched or airborne cruise missiles anywhere in Western Europe. Whether there are cruise missiles in Germany depends on whether the Germans feel inadequately protected or unfairly discriminated against without them. About this, we may expect a lively debate within Germany itself, and we must accept whatever decision they reach. External pressures against the trend of German public opinion — whether for or against cruise — would impose greater strains on the alliance than it can be expected to bear.

In this, as in all other respects, military deployment must follow political judgment, and that will depend on the Soviet Union. So long as it remains politically weak, economically dependent and anxious to be accommodating, the worst-case analysis, in which nuclear deterrence is based on less and less convincing, not only in Germany, but in Western Europe as a whole. The military contingencies on which our plans for nuclear and conventional deployment are based may one day become so remote that the existing alliances can be absorbed into a pan-European security system. But we are not there yet. Meanwhile, the plans of the alliance need to retain military credibility, and the British commitment is as necessary as ever. That might mean hanging on to the RAF for a little longer.

Sir Michael Howard is Robert E. Lovett Professor of Modern History at Yale University.

## The art of the possible

As Margaret Thatcher plays host to the British film industry at Downing Street today, her guests may be pleasantly surprised by the formidable depth of knowledge she will display, not merely on the problems of the film world, but on the arts in general. Stung by suggestions of philistinism, the prime minister has taken a crash course in the arts over the past six months. Recently she visited the Tate Gallery to look at the Turner collection, and surprised administrators by insisting that the visit take place behind closed doors. A source close to Downing Street says: "She specifically asked for the public to be kept away so she could learn about the subject in private. She wanted to prove to herself that she can hold her own when discussing the arts."

In the past few months Mrs Thatcher has opened a new arts development in Halifax, launched the corporate members' scheme at the Royal Academy, attended the Museum of Photography in Bradford, been involved in Glasgow's City of Culture celebrations and opened the rearranged collection at the Tate. During her recent visit to Russia, she spent some four hours at the opera, attending an English National Opera production of Handel's *Xerxes*. On previous foreign trips she has often had to be strong-armed into accepting invitations to cultural activities. A government aide insists that this is partly because she does not want to give the impression that she swans around

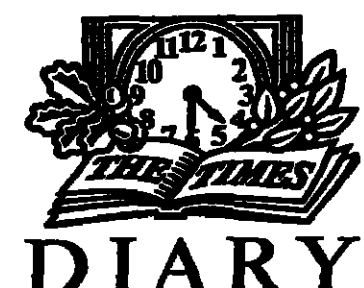
the world at taxpayers' expense, but concedes: "Mrs Thatcher, like many other people, finds some members of the arts establishment a bit frightening. But the criticism of her normally comes from the arts-factory drawing rooms of Belgravia. It hurts her but she is now engaged in a fascinating list of cultural visits."

## Smart number

James Baker, the US secretary of state, is not the most popular man in the White House at present. At a meeting of the House foreign affairs committee yesterday, he became incensed at questioning on Israel's new right-wing government. "If you want to ask about Israel, call the White House," he said, and proceeded to give the number. In the spirit of open government, all such committees are of course televised, and in the first hour following the broadcast, the president's switchboard was jammed with 1,500 calls.

## Going for gold

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Sir George Soli are not, perhaps, the most obvious names to enhance Manchester's attempt to host the 1996 Olympics, but there is a reason. The Olympic Charter requires that the mind must be tendered as well as the body, and asks that examples of "the host country's art" be "held concurrently and in the same vicinity as the sports events". Hence Manchester has poured two years' worth of its arts festival budget into the Olympic arts festival, which opens this weekend with the two international stars



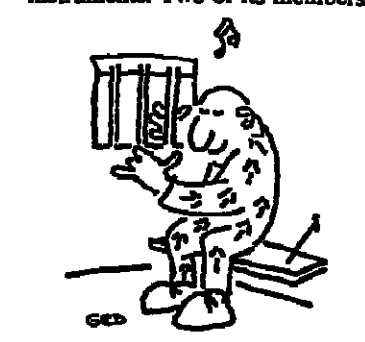
performing together, Soli at the piano. Few believe that Manchester has a real chance against Toronto, Melbourne, Belgrade and Atlanta — not to mention Athens, in the centenary year of the first modern Olympics. The International Olympic Committee will make its decision in September. Manchester is lobbying for votes among its 89 members, and hopes already to have sewn up the Russians. "Sir George and Dame Kiri will be the stars of our festival," says Bob Scott, who is heading the bid, "but an exhibition from Leningrad — our twin town — will startle the entire art world."

A slip along the way reduced P.G. Wodehouse's *Lord Emsworth of Blandings Castle* to simply "Lord Blandings" in this column on Monday. But it has produced this delightful Wodehousian verse from one Charles Wodehouse:

Emsworth and Bertie may not care a hoot  
Nor wince now at your solemnising ring.  
A gentle Tinkety Tonk to you,  
Old fruit —  
But have you read enough to feel the sting?

## Going for a song

Music-loving MP Sir Charles Irving has come to the aid of the pop group Inside Out, which is based, for the time being at least, inside Gloucester Prison. Sir Charles, a leading campaigner for prison reform, has invested £500 in the band's future after hearing them play while he was on a tour of the jail. "They were using old newspapers as drums, so I told them I would get them better instruments," says the Cheltenham MP. "I like any kind of music, especially jailhouse rock." There has been one setback to the group's progress with their new instruments. Two of its members



were granted home leave to pick up suitable clothing for a television charity gig, and went absent without leave. Fortunately, the errant musicians are safely back in jail and the band is back in action.

## Up on the roof

After hijacking poll-tax protests, the hard left has latched on to the issue of prisoners' rights, seeking to extract maximum political advantage as

the Woolf inquiry into the Strangeways riot grabs the headlines. The guest speaker at a seemingly innocent meeting at London's St Pancras Library on Wednesday night was Sandra Williams, mother of Mark Williams, one of the last seven prisoners to come down from the Strangeways roof. Mrs Williams was travelling back to Liverpool yesterday and so unavailable to say whether she knew that the meeting was a front for the Revolutionary Communist Group, an extremist faction which splintered from the Socialist Workers Party in 1975.

The meeting was nominally held under the auspices of the Terry O'Halloran Memorial Fund, which was set up to provide books for prisoners. O'Halloran was a member of the RCG and contributor to its paper, *Right Racism, Fight Imperialism*. At the meeting, the debate swiftly strayed from the tame question of providing books for prisoners to discussion of a motion that there should be no reprisals after Strangeways. It went on to demand that the last seven prisoners to come down from the roof should be allowed to present statements to the inquiry, and condemned prison governors as totalitarian figures with arbitrary powers.

Organiser Eddie Abraham described the O'Halloran Memorial Fund as "a charitable organisation", but the Charity Commissioners have no record of it. When confronted with this, Abraham says: "We never even thought about registering it as a charity. We're just a group of friends who thought we'd do something useful."

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## FARCE BECOMES TRAGEDY

In classic revolutionary style, students were the true heroes of the East European upheavals of last year. There is thus a grim symbolism about the nocturnal butchery, followed by mass arrests, of Romanian students and other opposition supporters in the streets of Bucharest over the past two days. Choosing the best possible stage in the capital's main boulevard, students had demonstrated against the ruling National Salvation Front for some seven weeks. Using the flimsy pretext of crushing a "fascist coup d'état", the Iliescu government unleashed first troops and then thousands of well-armed miners to clear the streets. Communications were interrupted.

By yesterday the students had been overwhelmed, and the pro-government forces turned against the opposition parties and the only free national newspaper, *Romania Libera*. Ammunition was said to have been found below their offices: shades of the Reichstag fire. Ion Ratiu, leader of the National Peasants' party, seemed in despair when he telephoned Reuters from his hideout yesterday. Mr Ratiu had warned the West not to trust President Iliescu. His gloomy prophecy has proved true so far. Yesterday he spoke of the "total destruction" of his hopes for democracy in Romania.

A purge of the handful of free spirits who survived the Ceausescu years cannot now be ruled out. The Hungarian minority in Transylvania must now be thoroughly alarmed. The tightening of state control over press and broadcasting will help Mr Iliescu to convince the population of his version of events. Sadly, Romanian workers and peasants have been well-drilled. They believe officially-inspired horror stories. Unlike the "obscure forces" whom the president blackguarded yesterday, they read little and care less about what happens to critics of the government.

Provided Romania continues to receive Western aid, Mr Iliescu may well be able to quell discontent among the masses with bread and circuses. The pitiful sight of the Romanian orphans has excited the compassion of most Britons. Since last December individuals have been able to send help through agencies without thereby filling the coffers of the Romanian government. Whether that will

continue to be possible in the new climate of repression will probably depend on how carefully the West links government-to-government aid to the restoration of human rights.

If Western governments treat Romania's government as no less deserving than those of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany, Mr Iliescu will have no incentive to change course. He has so far disdained the minimum programme of reforms proposed by *The Times* after last month's election. They were: consultation of the opposition in the drafting of a new constitution; the creation of an independent and multi-ethnic judiciary; and rapid economic liberalisation.

Mr Iliescu will continue to take comfort from the credulous British politicians who rushed about last month's fraudulent election, in which the ballot-riggers were shameless enough to allow a million more "votes" to be counted than there were registered voters. Edwina Currie and Roy Hattersley, besides other observers who parachuted in to declare the elections fair, ought to admit that their testimony did, however unwittingly, confer respectability on this blood-thirsty regime.

Events in Romania have aroused fears that something similar might follow Sunday's second round of elections in Bulgaria. There are many differences between these two case histories of "reform communism", among them the survival of pro-Russian sentiment in Bulgaria and the bloodless palace coup last autumn which replaced Todor Zhivkov with Petar Mladenov. These factors may be favourable to President Mladenov, but he is unlikely to entrench himself permanently in power without the apparatus of dictatorship and repression which he, no less than Mr Iliescu in Romania, has been glad to inherit.

The demonstrators who filled central Sofia on Monday had every reason to warn the Mladenov government against following Mr Iliescu's example. In Bulgaria the opposition, despite similar handicaps to those suffered by the opposition in Romania, has made the election a close-run thing — thus raising the stakes this Sunday. Mr Iliescu's ghoulish triumph is unlikely to be the last setback on the road to liberty in the Balkans.

## SENSIBLE MR SMITH

The Labour party last night confirmed a *Times* story of earlier this week which said that if it returns to office, local property taxes based on rental value would be reinstated for local finance. In other words, Labour would bring back the rates. Since the rate rolls remain in being for the payment of water charges, and since valuations have already been adjusted for businesses, this is a perfectly practical policy. A brief but exceedingly unhappy chapter in the history of local government would be over.

Labour is a long way from office, but on this point at least it has come to a thoroughly responsible conclusion. After a painful dalliance with alternatives to the poll tax, it has decided in favour of sanity. The rates may be unexciting. A two-year exercise in trying to upstage the Tories on poll tax may have been humiliating. The new policy may even be electorally unpopular. But while the party's environment spokesman, Bryan Gould, has been brainstorming his alternatives for the past six months, the shadow Treasury team under John Smith have briskly called him to order.

The only sensible basis for truly local revenue is one based on a fixed, truly local asset, namely property. And, says Mr Smith, the most economical and fair way of valuing that property for tax purposes is on some notion of historic rent. That is exactly how it used to be done, before the ill-conceived innovation of the community charge.

None the less capital value rating, Mr Gould's favourite option, had much to commend it. It was, in effect, a wealth tax, but one that would have required a new Domesday register of who owns what. A capital value basis could have caused drastic increases in charges (for instance, for old people in valuable but unrentable houses) that would have produced howls of pain from those who

suffered most. While rates — imputed rents — may yield some losers, any change in rateable values from the old lists can be made a duty of the local authority to adjust slowly and therefore less painfully over time.

Labour's volte face can be presented as innovative in some respects. Every household, public and private, should be told precisely what it is paying in rates. A more steeply graduated rebate system should also be introduced. Labour would do well to retain some features of the poll tax, including the principle of some charge being levied on every household. These reforms should increase local accountability and make local taxes progressive once again. Since rates have always been at least roughly related to wealth, the need for rebates will be less than under poll tax. More households will thus pay the full charge and capping will be easier to avoid.

This outcome to what has been a fierce skirmish between Mr Smith and Mr Gould is a victory for sound pragmatism over political expediency and cleverness, both of which are still prevalent in Neil Kinnock's team. Already Mr Smith has called to order shadow spending ministers, such as Robin Cook on health, for making extravagant promises. The return to the rates suggests that Mr Smith's ascendancy in the shadow cabinet is growing by the month.

Labour has refused to borrow the Tories' clothes on local finance. The ideal outcome would be for Margaret Thatcher now shamelessly to steal Labour's, as part of the much-trumpeted but deadlocked cabinet "review" of the poll tax. The irony is that Nigel Lawson tried to move his colleagues in the same direction as Mr Smith, and on the same subject, five years ago. He failed completely and the poll tax went ahead. Mr Smith is clearly a man to watch.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Office of Population Census and Surveys has discovered that most people eat the wrong things, particularly too much fat, and as a result many are overweight. Furthermore, "there were differences between men and women in both the types and quantities of food consumed."

Thus is commonplace observation turned into scientific truth, with the intention of supplying a baseline against which future changes in national eating habits may be measured. By just how much the average person departs from the recommended diet, and in what way, has not before been so thoroughly investigated. Health education in good eating will at last be able to target itself where the need is greatest, for there is no point in urging people to reduce their cholesterol if it is already, on average, too low.

What would have been even more interesting would have been a comparative survey of the way food induces guilt. We may no longer treat the stomach as the seat of the emotions, but what we eat has as much to do with the subconscious as with hunger. The OPCS offers only a glimpse of this truth when it seeks at one point to explain an apparent discrepancy in its findings. Apparently the subjects of the survey, whose eating habits were monitored for a week, either changed their behaviour because they knew Big Brother was watching them, or, to be frank, lied about what they ate. The average number of calories what the experts calculated was necessary to maintain a normal weight, yet "no group was underweight, although overweight was common".

There seems either to have been some unadmitted nibbling on the side or the basis of the experts' approach may be at fault. The former points to a guilty conscience among the

eaters for cheating; the latter suggests a methodology which relied too much on honest self-monitoring. But if the nation has become steadily more sedentary over the years, the number of calories necessary to keep going may well be falling in ways not fully taken into account by the dieticians, in which case the findings themselves may be accurate after all. The experts always blame the public on these occasions.

Awareness of diet in Britain is approaching the American level. This is one of the fruits of prosperity. Being overweight offends the norm of healthy attractiveness which is a staple of our awareness of each other, further promoted by advertising and the entertainment industries. But the current survey finds the average man eating as unhealthily as ever. This proves what women knew already, that men like fried white fish, sausages, meat pies and chips. The survey presents the nation's menfolk as a fairly disgusting bunch. They ought to be eating more fruit, less fried food, and more fibre, as in boiled potatoes and brown bread.

Women have been much more influenced by the trend towards healthy eating, and their diet is therefore closer to the ideal. None the less a higher proportion of women than men are classified — with the typical tactlessness of statisticians — as among the obese, the real heavyweight class. The gap between the sexes in this bathroom scales competition of extremes is actually widening: the number of obese women is increasing faster than the number of obese men. Human nature being what it is, pressure to change a favourite habit sometimes leaves the habit in place, but merely takes the fun out of it. How many women, one may well ask, have been driven to overeating by their guilt and anxiety — about overeating?

## Where, how and when to start training of teachers

From Professor Sir William Taylor

Sir, Dr Lawlor's ill-considered proposals on teacher-training (report, June 11) should delight critics of the government's educational reforms. Their effect on the quality and — despite her assertions to the contrary — on the supply of new teachers would do much to undermine implementation of the National Curriculum. I cannot believe this is what she wants to see happen.

If Dr Lawlor has hard evidence that the one-year training requirement deters large numbers of potential graduate entrants to teaching, then I hope she will produce it.

What graduate recruits need is not more subject studies, but an opportunity to learn how to apply their knowledge in the classroom; this is what a good PGCE (post-graduate certificate of education) course provides. Those coming to train straight from school, often with modest A levels, need a stiffer programme of subject studies than Dr Lawlor's proposal for a two-year certificate could offer, plus an introduction to professional practice for which working alongside an experienced teacher is a necessary but not a sufficient condition.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM TAYLOR  
(Chairman),  
Council for the Accreditation  
of Teacher Training,  
Elizabeth House,  
York Road, SE1,  
June 12.

From Mrs Dorothy Fleming

Sir, I find it extraordinary that, just at the time when other professions such as doctors, lawyers and engineers, are energetically extending and improving the training of their present and future members the suggestion comes that teachers should go back to learning their profession from "sitting by Nellie".

In my extensive experience of training teachers I found that what students wanted more of was an understanding of children both as

individuals and in groups, knowledge of the techniques of classroom management, communication, organisation, presentation, assessment skills — in other words "how to teach".

They certainly learnt a good deal from their practical experience in schools but they also needed a firm theoretical knowledge base — as do all professionals. To suggest that subject knowledge is all — never mind the children — and that psychology and sociology put students off from being teachers makes one wonder where the authors have been.

For once I hope that this report ends up where so many have done — on the shelf.

Yours faithfully,  
DOROTHY FLEMING,  
22 Whinell Court,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
June 11.

From Mr Russell Sage

Sir, As a retired schoolmaster I must say how much I agree with the views of Dr Sheila Lawlor. In 1932-33 I followed a course of teacher-training at a London training college in order to obtain the teachers' diploma then required, in addition to a degree, for employment in a state school.

I found the lectures almost useless and the teaching practice (one day a week at a tough East End school) useful only as an exercise in survival technique. I cut what lectures I could in order to attend classes at Consuelo de Reyes' little drama school at the Hampstead Everyman Theatre where I learnt much that served me well when I became a schoolmaster.

Another interest or two that you can share with your pupils is a help (I had the drama and rowing). Add to that a touch of eccentricity and you are home and dry — at least I was for 42 years, the last 13 of them as deputy head.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL H. SAGE,  
The Willows,  
Cock Marsh,  
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

## Where charity begins

From Rachel Briggs and Rebecca Hodges

Sir, We feel that although Mr Paul Messing's ideas about charity sponsorship (June 5) are well-intentioned, it is the weird and wonderful world that draws in the crowds and this means money.

Events need to be aimed at the age group from which you hope to collect the money. Young people who are fund-raising like to be involved in something that is energetic and fun. This encourages them to try their best for the charity they are supporting.

Also, we feel that good deeds should be done quietly and not for money, even though this would go to a good cause.

Are we really entitled to pick fault with the methods other people use to raise funds? Surely it is the cause that counts.

Yours faithfully,  
RACHEL BRIGGS,  
REBECCA HODGES,  
Form 2L, St Martin's Catholic  
High School,  
Stoke Golding,  
Nuneaton, Warwickshire,  
June 6.

From Mr S. Alan Livesey

Sir, Messrs Messing and Osmond (June 5 and 7) will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that on April 21 this year Boughton Monchelsea Scout Troop organised a sponsored clean-up of all the roadsides in the parish.

Over two and a half tons of debris was collected but, disappointingly, only a little over

£250 was raised — to be split between our own funds and Barnados. As this represents less than 5p per parishioner, perhaps charity begins somewhat closer to home than the roadside.

Yours faithfully,  
S. ALAN LIVESEY  
(Scout leader),  
Chainshurst Farm,  
Chainshurst,  
Marden,  
Tonbridge, Kent,  
June 8.

From Mr M. I. Samuel

Sir, It is not only in Hong Kong that charity sponsorship is applied to us. In this year, designated Tidy Britain Year, every store within our group is organising a clean-up project in the locality of the store.

The campaign, which runs under the banner of Sainsbury's Operation Clean-Up, started in March and continues until October. So far projects have included the clearance of litter from 340 acres of heath in Norfolk, 20 miles of the River Wey in Surrey and the length of the Keighley and Worth Valley railway line.

Although this is a more orchestrated approach than would normally be pursued, these individual initiatives are reflective of our concern for the environment.

Yours faithfully,  
M. I. SAMUEL  
(Environment affairs manager),  
J. Sainsbury plc,  
Stamford House,  
Stamford Street, SE1,  
June 7.

## Horseriders at risk

From Mrs D. Graham

Sir, The government-backed City of London (Various Powers) Bill, a private bill promoted by the City of London whose primary objective is to trade part of Epping Forest for a defunct sewage works to facilitate the construction of an M11 slip road, has gone through the Commons and the report stage of the Lords. Without a Lords amendment, the free recreational rights given to the public by Queen Victoria under the Epping Forest Act 1878 will be summarily removed over the entire 6,000-acre forest.

The bill provides for the imposition of a licence to ride horses in the forest (and to confiscate it without proof of any offence). Revenue therefrom will pay for the upkeep of forest routes for the conservators' maintenance ve-

hicles. They construct these tracks with boulders, the danger of which to horses and riders is compounded by the deep ruts carved by the vehicles.

The bill's proposed tax will force many riders on to the public highway, where they are greatly endangered. Already 20 per cent of all road accidents involving ridden horses in Great Britain occur in Essex.

May I appeal to those of your readers who are members of the House of Lords to amend the bill by removing clauses 9 and 10, which will otherwise extinguish the rights bestowed on the public by an enlightened sovereign?

Yours etc.,  
DEIRDRE GRAHAM  
(Chairman),  
Essex Bridleways Association,  
The Old House,  
Horndon on the Hill, Essex,  
June 7.

## Garden museum

From the Marchioness of Salisbury and others

Sir, We have read and heard with astonishment over the last weeks assertions that there is no Museum of Garden History in this country and of the need there is for one. Some people are labouring under considerable misapprehension for there is already a Museum of Garden History in Britain, and has been for the last 12 years.

The Museum of Garden History was founded in 1977 by the Tradescant Trust and occupies the redundant Church of St Mary-at-Lambeth, an historic building at the gates of Lambeth Palace. The patron is the Prince of Wales.

The museum, which already has a small but significant permanent exhibition, has just acquired many of the most outstanding items from Lord McAlpine's collection of garden tools. It is a centre for lectures and exhibitions related to gardening and the Gerturde Jekyll

Exhibition was held there this spring.

Last year the Prince of Wales launched an appeal for £3 million to complete the restoration of the building and install display galleries to house a comprehensive and permanent exhibition telling the story of gardens and gardening throughout the centuries, as well as a garden information centre and reference library.

The appeal is gathering momentum and is nearing the first million. This includes £100,000 from English Heritage and considerable sums from the Heritage of London and the Pilgrim Trust. The trust has supporting organisations in the USA and Australia.

In May, 1983, the museum's own garden (where the renowned plant hunters and gardeners of the 17th century, the John Trad-

escants, lie buried) was opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who has been an enthusiastic supporter of the trust and the museum since their founding.

The museum is enthusiastically supported by an increasing number of people in Britain and overseas, whose interests lie in plants, gardens and garden history, all of whom must have been as amazed and puzzled as we were to hear it stated that there is no such museum.

Yours faithfully,  
MARJORIE SALISBURY  
(President, Tradescant Trust;  
Museum of Garden History),  
ROSEMARY NICHOLSON  
(Chairman of the trustees),  
ANGLESEY,  
CARRINGTON,  
PATRICK CORMACK,  
ION DANNREUTHER,  
GRAFTON (Trustees),  
Hatfield House,  
Hatfield, Hertfordshire,  
June 8.

From Mr Antony R. Kenney  
Sir, Your leading article ("Mis-teaching teachers", June 11) condemns all old training college degrees as being below true degree standard and confuses the PGCE with current degree courses. How is it that so many of our graduates move forward to university and polytechnic post-graduate courses and research?

Many would say the quality of degree courses depends on the ability of the academic staff involved. In these colleges there is a constant transfer of staff across the binary line which ensures competence and by way of illustration three of our staff in science, technology and English have been appointed to reputable university chairs over the last 12 months.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY R. KENNEY (Vice-Principal Academic Affairs),  
St Mary's College,  
Strawberry Hill,  
Waldegrave Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex,  
June 11.

From Ms Pat Mason  
Sir, As a teacher trained in the mid-60s, I welcome, on behalf of a future generation, the suggestion that training should be carried out "at the coal face".

Being trained neither in crowd control, voice projection, book-balancing nor stress management, I have spent many not very happy years trying to get out of the classroom.

There is no substitute for on the job training. But who is to give the lead? Good teachers are so thin on the ground that they cannot be spared; the poor ones will be conspicuous by the eagerness with which they volunteer to hand over the flickering torches of their own dubious teaching practices.

Yours faithfully,  
PAT MASON,  
St Elmo, Anderton,  
Millbrook,  
Torpoint,  
Cornwall,  
June 12.

## Drinking and driving

From Sir Ian Lloyd, MP for Havant (Conservative)

Sir, The draft proposals to amend the drink-driving law as it applies to drivers under the age of 25 once again focuses public attention on two related objectives. The first is to reduce alcohol-related accidents, an objective whose merit is universally agreed. The second is to devise appropriate means for achieving this objective without causing serious damage to the public relations of the police in one of the most critical areas of this important relationship.

Your perceptive leading article (June 7) argues convincingly that the government's present proposal is impractical. It seeks to enforce total prohibition within strictly defined limits for a significant sector of the driving public and to use the motor vehicle as the instrument of enforcement. Whatever the merits of the objective and however draconian the penalties, this will not work.

Contrary to your statement that "the individual concerned would have no way of knowing whether he was fit to drive", very precise, accurate and commercially available means to achieve precisely that objective do exist and are being applied with considerable success in other countries.

It is most unfortunate that the government's attitude towards these devices is based on the mistaken view that "they encourage people to drive near the limit", a statement which is not backed by any evidence and that the police generally discourage, though they are not entitled to prevent, their general installation, either in public places where alcohol is consumed, or in motor vehicles.

The more stringent the drink-driving limit, the more essential such devices become.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN LLOYD,  
House of Commons.

## All yours

From Mr Chris Powell

Sir, Mrs Thatcher has been "triumphantly" received by the people in Russia and Mr Gorbachev was mobbed by friendly crowds on his summit trip to the US. As neither of them is doing all that well in their own country, may I suggest a swap, perhaps with a small handover ceremony at the Brandenburg Gate?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS POWELL,  
57 Ravenscourt Road, W6.

## Setting style to suit the times

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, For the editor of the *Times* to modernise

and cut down to size the prime minister could be sinister as he shows no contrition in retaining the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours crisply and concisely, RAY WHITNEY (member of parliament for Wycombe), House of Commons, June 12.

From Dr Peter Willetts

Sir, Even if it were true that too many capitals "break the flow of the eye across a sentence" ("A change of style to suit the times", June 12), it would be a spurious reason for abandoning them. On that basis we could abandon all punctuation other than the full stop.

However, the real objection is that removing capitals can change the meaning of a sentence. Peter Brooke is not a secretary, but a Secretary of State, with Secretary being a reasonable abbreviation of his formal title. Gerard Collins may be foreign to us, but is not a foreign minister for the Irish.

Given the turmoil in the Soviet Union, it is surely debatable whether the Supreme Soviet is the supreme soviet. An Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly in reality might be a pre-planned, ordinary meeting with low attendance by the UN's members, but your reader would be given untruthful information were the capitals to be omitted.

There would be no problem were you to stick rigorously to your rule that "proper names, titles and institutions require capitals".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WILLETTS,  
25 Kings Way,  
Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr David Terry

Sir, "Brevity is the key to clarity", you tell us. Have you told Mr Levin?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TERRY,  
28 Hill Grove Crescent,  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

From Mr P. Porta

Sir, Hazlitt said it better: To write a genuine, familiar or truly English style is to write as anyone would speak in common conversation who had a thorough command or choice of words or who could discourse with ease, force and perspicuity setting aside all pedantic and oratorical flourishes.

Yours faithfully,  
P. PORTA,  
7 Capron Road,  
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

From Mr R. M. A. Rice

Sir, Your lively article (I must not call it interesting) about updating (?) the *Times* style of English makes short mention of the hyphen. Please help to restore or reinforce its use in adjectives built up from two words, such as "fire-resistant". The worst omitters are the stores (shops?) offering "interest-free credit".

Yours faithfully,  
R. M. A. RICE,  
18 De Parys Avenue,  
Bedford.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, Your stylistic dictat is all very (is that all right?) well, but does it apply to those of your readers who write to you from time to time?

Yours rebelliously,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
13 Lynwood Road,  
Ealing, W5.

Letters to the editor will not as a rule be subject to the *Times* style.

## Naseby disclaimer

From Mr D. L. Hackett and Mrs P. S. Oldfield

Sir, The campaign being waged by the Society for the Preservation of the Field of the Battle of Naseby in respect of the proposed route of the M1/A1 link road does not have the support of the majority of the local community.

Following the two relevant public enquiries, the parish council, who are the elected representatives of the village, resolved to abide by the outcome of these enquiries which followed the democratic process.

At our council meeting last week it was unanimously agreed that we should dissociate ourselves from the claims of local support for the society's campaign. As far as the residents of Naseby are concerned ample opportunity has been given for interested parties to present their case.

Yours sincerely,  
D. L. HACKETT (Chairman),  
P. S. OLDFIELD (Clerk),  
Naseby Parish Council,  
6 Nutcote,  
Naseby, Northamptonshire,  
June 12.

## Jumble sales?

From Mr Mike Morris

Sir, Sotheby's latest International Sales Calendar has a section for Decorative Art. The list of sales under this heading starts with Aircraft (in Nebraska) and ends with Wine.

What is going on? Have I misunderstood Aircraft and Wine? Am I missing them? Is this the end of civilization as we know it?

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE MORRIS,  
81 Palewell Park, SW4,  
June 9.



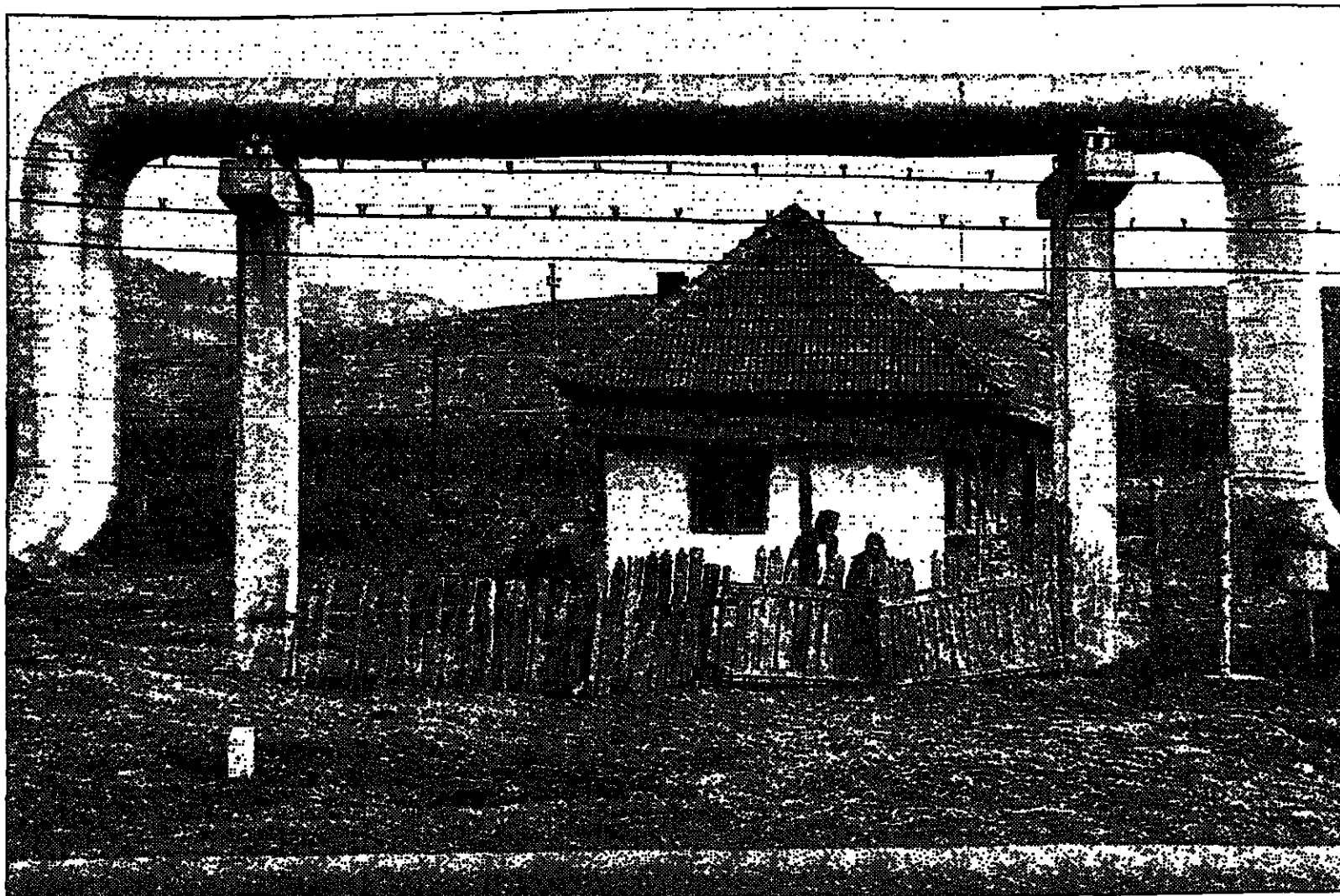








# A mission of discovery in new Romania



Tortured landscape: a traditional cottage in Romania, dwarfed by the pipework of one of the old regime's massive schemes

Away from the violent disturbances on the streets of the capital, Alan Franks joins a remarkable man on an errand of mercy.

When Mishi Ungvari sets off from Budapest for the Romanian border, he does not gird up his loins. He straps on his legs. He then prays for a number of specific deliverances, from accidents along the road, from the mechanical failure of his Volkswagen van, from attacks on the vehicle, and above all from the need to use a public lavatory in the next 24 hours.

He is running a vanload of food and medicine from Hungary into the hard-up, hard-pressed countryside of his eastern European neighbours. For the last eight years of the Ceausescu regime he made this same journey 30 times. What is now a one-man mercy mission was in those dark days a bizarre series of smuggling operations, with the chronically disabled Mr Ungvari carrying supplies in his own limbs and in a secret panel fitted into his clapped-out Trabant.

If he had been detected by the border guards, or by the Securitate, he would have faced imprisonment or even death, a fate which befell many of his compatriots. To counter the threat of personal searches, he had evolved a routine of unfolding his lower

half from the driving seat which was so publicly painstaking that the guards either lost patience or found an unexpected reserve of sympathy.

Eventually the Trabant, with 150,000 miles to its name, gave out, just months before Ceausescu. This is Mr Ungvari's third trip since the revolution which toppled the dictator last December, and his first since the national election which last month gave President Ion Iliescu's mandate to continue in office. Six months into Romania's post-Ceausescu epoch, there are changes in the countryside, but there are also depressing similarities. For Mishi Ungvari, this remains a journey without legs into a land without groceries.

He has stocked up at the supermarket in Budapest with bread, sugar, biscuits, chocolate, aspirin and all the other taken-for-granted spoils of a western raid on the High Street shelves. By comparison with the stark stores of Romania, where you might find nothing more than the plates which contained the food, Hungary is a cornucopia.

At the border post, between the towns of Arad and the west and Bors to the east, Mr Ungvari is recognised by the guards, and his passage through the fast lane is eased by gifts of Marlboro cigarettes and coveted bottles of Dettol. The officials take the offerings with a silent, formal nod that stops short of surprise.

Into Romania, the picture darkens. As the road rolls forwards, so the century rolls backwards through several decades, and images from the Third World assemble in the middle distance. Hunched figures are hand-tilling the fields, and wooden beam-pumps are nodding at the wells. There are lorries which are limping and lopsided, squeezing the last drops of life from their chassis on spare wheels of different sizes. The queue of cars for the petrol pump stretches away into the gloom. About half the cars are being pushed by the drivers, inch by inch for hour after hour, either to save the last precious fuel in the tank, or because they have already run out. Everything in view — people, implements, machines, Dacia cars and Roman lorries — looks exhausted.

Half a year after the revolution, each piece of good news seems to carry a dispiriting rider. Petrol rationing has been abolished: but there is no petrol. Goods earmarked for export have been brought into the market but the economy is performing at 20 per cent below its 1989 level. Communist party domination of key posts in the rural communities has ended: now they are all filled by members of the National Salvation Front, usually the same men. In April meat started to appear in the shops: since the election there is none to be seen. Today you can make more than the old statutory limit of three phone calls out of the country each year: but to be connected for the fourth will probably cost the equivalent of a week's wages.

Mr Ungvari lost his legs, and one eye, nearly 20 years ago when, as a boy of 12, a grenade exploded on an old Soviet arms cache in the countryside where he was playing. He then spent his teenage years at an institute for disabled boys in the capital, where he met and later married a girl severely crippled by polio. Today he has a pair of artificial legs from the limb-fitting centre at Roehampton, in south-west London. He can wear them for about eight hours a day, until the chaffing becomes unbearable.

Eight years after his first foray across the border, he has established contact with community leaders in the countryside. In the town of Marghita, in north-west Romania, the supplies which he brings in go into a distribution network set up by the local church to handle his aid. In the early days his operation was haphazard. He would simply ship in as much as the Trabant could conceal.

Oradea, the first big town on the road east of the border, is still wounded from the regime; it is like Mr Ungvari, only worse. The town has lost whole bits of itself, had them replaced with artificial shoots, and cannot even remove them when they enrage. During the last decade of Ceausescu it was

one of several thousand communities where the old houses were razed and supplanted by high-rise flats. There is now a grid of uniform streets with rank upon rank of tower blocks where, until a few years ago, there was a rural suburb of cottages and small-holdings. At one of the blocks Mr Ungvari stops to refuel the van from a little cache of petrol kept for him by his friend and collaborator, Bela Kiss. A year ago there were huge posters on the street walls with pictures of the president, and the caption "Ceausescu is Good". After they had gone, signs bearing the Hungarian village names began to appear, and were in turn torn down by the Romanians as ethnic tensions replaced the general terror of the tyranny.

Since the revolution, the flat in which Mr Kiss and his wife live has a regular supply of water. The couple sometimes have difficulty believing they have a permanent supply. They keep buckets in the kitchen in case the old shortage returns. Mr Kiss has a regular job which pays him about £27 a month. The block is ten years old but feels barely post-war — it and the neighbouring ones lean towards each other like a pair of drunks. They were built where a pond used to be, Mr Kiss says, and now there is a sub-sidence. The lift always gets stuck on the tenth floor. It is tiny and completely dark, and grinds its way down the shaft like a mole in pain. Today the couple dine on the remnants of their son's wedding feast a week before. In most weeks the bulk of their meals consists of bread and dripping.

In the hierarchy of the town's industry and of the surrounding countryside, the revolution promised, and has delivered, change. The directorship of the metal works no longer rests with a Communist party member but with one from the National Salvation Front. However, in the villages, three of the traditional heads — party leader, doctor and co-operative leader — have undergone a similar shift, while the fourth, the priest, has the same relationship with them as before. In the haunting words of a teenage boy by the road at Huedin: "Ceausescu has left his ghosts in the system."

And yet there are more and more families farming together in the fields, as those who have been able to prove their



Mishi Ungvari

land from 40 years ago have been allowed to take them over again. In this respect, at least, the Front is taking the path advocated during the election campaign by Ion Iliescu's defeated National Peasants' Party.

In the town of Targu Mures, the scene of bloody ethnic clashes earlier this year, there is tension on the streets. Small gangs of young and not-so-young men, members of the nationalist group Vatra Romanasca, are roaming the pavements, feckless and fascist-baited. In the most recent riots sums of 5,000 lei, about two months' wages, were reportedly offered by state officials in Bucharest to volunteers to come to the town and fan up the disturbances. With yet another Romanian irony, the cheques bounced.

Does Mr Ungvari feel the need to continue his missions? "The need is as strong as ever," he answers without hesitation. "What happened was unspeakable. But there is no guarantee at all that life will suddenly grow soft and easy for the people I try to help. If you had come here three months ago, I would have been very optimistic. Now I am not so sure."

Back home in Budapest, Mr Ungvari is sitting in his wheelchair. His other half — we are not talking about his wife — is leaning against the wall at the same drunken angle as the flats in Oradea. He refers to his artificial section as the lower orders. "Which of us looks more legless?" he laughs. There are worse jokes about, and he is responsible for a few of them. Some are dictator jokes ("What's black and comes knocking at the door?" Answer: "The future").

These jokes, the bad ones as well as the good ones, join ranks as if to confirm the famous maxim of the Swiss writer Friedrich Dürrenmatt, that humour is the weapon which dictators fear most.

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Total Credit Price	£6175.00	£7960.00	£8275.00	-
<b>3.9% (APR 7.5%)</b>				
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24 Monthly Payments of	£138.68	£178.77	£185.84	-
Charge for Credit	£856.31	£1103.96	£1147.79	-
Total Credit Price	£6175.00	£7960.00	£8275.00	-
<b>6.9% (APR 13.4%)</b>				
Initial Payment (Min. 30%)	£2037.75	£2626.80	£2730.75	-
36 Monthly Payments of	£138.44	£178.81	£185.89	-
Charge for Credit	£856.31	£1103.96	£1147.79	-
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## FINE ART

# Old friends made to feel at home

John Russell Taylor on how the collection of the Courtauld Institute has been fitted into the Strand block of Somerset House

When I was a student at the Courtauld Institute, in the era when Anthony Blunt was its director, we regularly had the extraordinary experience of reading and writing under the dispassionate gaze of the girl behind Manet's *Bar at the Folies Bergère*. Even more extraordinary when you consider that most of the students were labouring happily in Renaissance fields, and the literal surroundings were as elegant an example of intimate urban grandeur as Robert Adam could devise.

This was a curious but enlightening lesson on how to live with great art, and perhaps also on how great art might expect to be lived with. Admittedly, when the nucleus of the Courtauld Collection was moved to its slightly antiseptic, custom-built home in Woburn Square the pictures could better be seen and they were better protected from climatic variation, erratic light levels and other hazards which have come increasingly to preoccupy us as the century progresses. But for those who had been privileged to know the collection intimately before, there was a sense of loss in the divorce of the art from any domestic environment.

One would have to be very grand indeed to regard the Strand block of Somerset House, the Courtauld Institute's new permanent home for both itself and its collections, as an everyday domestic environment. All the same, the location does again call for some kind of accommodation between a large number of major works of art and a setting which is of considerable interest and quality in itself. Though part of Somerset House has had a longstanding connection with the exhibiting of art — the Great Room on the second floor was after all an early home of the Royal Academy — no one ever imagined that it would be an easy option. There are a number of paintings in the north-facing galleries which cannot be seen complete from any angle without distracting reflections, and the reflections could be completely eliminated only by tinting the architecture, covering the windows and completely re-lighting to suit the pictures only.

All the same, the necessary delicate balance has, in the main, been struck. One might argue with

the spindly accretions in the Great Room itself, where little screens have been built out from the walls to divide the space into coves, each devoted to a particular topic inspired by a particular picture or group of pictures. The pictures are on the wall; the information is on the screens, so that we can turn aside to find out, if we wish to, what recent close study tells us about the Bellini *Assassination of St Peter Martyr* and its relationship to the very similar painting in the National Gallery, or what the Impressionists thought of sex. All desirable, no doubt, but a pity that the vast space of the Great Room had to be compromised in this way.

Otherwise, walking through the 11 galleries is a kind of triumphal progress, something which must surely become an automatic part of the itinerary for any visitor to London, despite, one trusts, rather than because of the vulgar, jokey, "Ace Café" kind of advertising now being promulgated. The first necessity is to let people know what they will see when they get there. People do not even necessarily know that the most famous of the Courtauld Impressionists and Post-impressionists — works that everyone knows in reproduction, such as *A Bar at the Folies Bergère* and the smaller *Dejeuner sur l'herbe*, or Renoir's *La Loge*, or Van Gogh's *Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, or Gauguin's *Nevermore*, or Cézanne's *Card-Players* — are easily accessible in the centre of London.

In a way even more remarkable, because less overwhelmingly familiar (sometimes at the Courtauld Galleries one feels like the man who found "Hamlet" too full of quotations"), are some of the old masters from Count Antoine Seilern's collection. Even those who think they do not care for Rubens must surely be won over by the vividness of Seilern's Rubens sketches and models: the enormous final works in their grand settings undeniably have their own sort of power, but in the kind of work Seilern liked and sought out we get instead a vivid sense of the master as it were thinking aloud, before he has handed over the concept for execution by an army of assistants. The great size of the new galleries also allows many major works in the collection's holdings to be displayed in public, some-

times for the first time, and the Breughel *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*, for some years lost to thieves, is happily back in time for the opening.

But with a choice ranging from Tiepolo to Seurat, Cranach to Modigliani, Lely to Kokoschka, and even on down to Roger Fry and John Hoyland, no one can complain about being starved of variety. The only question now is when, how and where are they going to show some of the Courtauld's fantastic holdings of works on paper? Not, presumably, anywhere in the Fine Rooms, as it would entail too much tinkering with the natural light sources. But such wonders must somehow be exploited for the public pleasure.

Now the new Courtauld Institute Galleries are open the art is there, we presume, for ever. Anyone whose taste for old masters is not completely sated in Somerset House would do well to look lively in order to catch some of the necessarily more transitory shows which seem to have become traditional with our major Old Master dealers each June. At Entwistle, 37 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-409 3484) until July 10 there is a small but very choice loan show called *Netherlandish Mannerism in British Collections*, which draws attention to some of those Dutch painters, such as Maerten van Heemskerck, whose careers and reputations suffered from the iconoclasm of 1566, and also includes three delectable works of Roelandt Savery, two from private collections and one from the Fitzwilliam.

At the Walpole Gallery, 38 Dover Street, W1 (071-499 6626) until July 20 there is another remarkable theme show, this time devoted to Venetian Baroque and Rococo Paintings. There are an extraordinary number of unpublished works, among them an astonishing and uncharacteristic Canaletto, *Capriccio with a Shrine*, and the Riccio show to particular advantage, notably with a *St Roch* by Sebastiano which was possibly painted as a fast-day gift to the Scuola di San Rocco. Richard L. Feigen, 6 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-390 0020) has until July 27 just 13 Italian Paintings on show, full of interest and variety. The two little *Interiors of Leathers-workers' Shops* by Annibale Carracci are alone well worth a visit.



Renoir's *La Loge*: Familiar from reproduction and now easily accessible in central London

## Local hero of the art world

Andrew Gibbon Williams on a tribute to Cyril Gerber, proprietor for 21 years of a remarkable contemporary art gallery in Glasgow

The transformation of Glasgow's image from deprived industrial wasteland to glamorous artistic Mecca is a recent phenomenon. Yet, even during the dismal decades of decline a handful of brave, energetic spirits were battling against the philistinism which thrives on social depression. In the multipurpose converted tramshed which is proving so versatile during the city's reign as European City of Culture, a large exhibition of paintings and sculpture is a tribute to one such local hero.

After the war, frustrated by the exclusivity of the Glasgow Institute for Fine Arts and the dearth of commercial galleries, Glasgow artists resorted to hanging their pictures on the railings of the Botanic Garden. In the Sixties a converted Sauchiehall Street attic had to make do as the only independent gallery.

And then Cyril Gerber arrived. In a basement on West Regent Street he opened his Compass Gallery on a wing and a prayer to the Arts Council. The prayer was

answered and generations of exhibition-starved Scottish artists, supported by a coterie of collectors, allowed it to flourish. More than 100 artists whose work is at the Tramway testify to the extent of the opportunity which one dealer, operating from little more than a hole-in-the-wall, can afford a community of artists.

Predictably enough, few Scottish artists of note are absent; the gallery's annual New Generation shows intercepted most of the ambitious young potentials. Yet this is not the real reason for the kudos Gerber's operation enjoys in Scotland. From the outset he made it his business to exhibit artists from "down south", both successful expatriates and non-Scotts. So the expressionist, figurative allegories of John Bellamy here share wall space with the brilliant-hued, emphatically abstract pronouncements of John Hoyland; the spare, stained-canvas dreams of Craigie Aitchison with Keith Vaughan's male figure compositions. In this way the Tramway show succeeds in

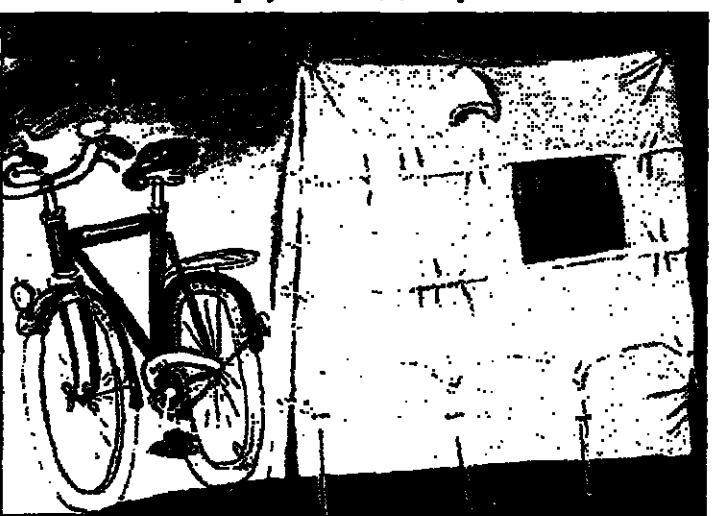
putting Scottish art in its wider British context and avoids the petty, defensive provincialism of so much of the debate about the arts in Scotland.

Gerber's internationalist outlook stems from his involvement with the wartime Glasgow art world. Like London, Glasgow's intellectual life was temporarily re-invigorated by an influx of Jewish refugee artists. The most notable, Joseph Herman and Jankel Adler, went on to play influential roles in British art. During their Glasgow years, they, together with the painter J.D. Fergusson and Margaret Morris, his talented dancer-wife, gave Glasgow a cosmopolitan, Bohemian cachet which inspired the future Compass director.

The missionary, "all-comers welcome", policy, though justifiable, has meant that the gallery itself has never developed the distinct personality which can actually form taste. However, the advantage of the broad, far-slung net is that subtle and easily overlooked small fry have been scooped up along with more assertive big fish.

Not surprisingly, in a country which can boast a tradition of prominent women artists — the great landscapist and portraitist of Glasgow's street urchins, Joan Eardley, is included at the Tramway — the most impressive is Carole Gibbons. For the last 30 years, Gibbons has persevered at a single task: to say something meaningful about that most threadbare of subjects, the still-life. Her work has been appreciated only by a handful of connoisseurs, but has the authority which only intense, long-term contemplation can attain.

● The Compass Contribution: 21 Years of Contemporary Art 1969-90 is at The Tramway, Glasgow (041-423 9527) daily, 10am-10pm, until June 24. Admission free



From the Compass show: *Bike and Tent* by Jack Knox

### CLASSICAL MUSIC: LONDON INTERNATIONAL OPERA FESTIVAL

## Novelty is not enough

THE London International Opera Festival has to be counted a Good Thing. It enables its younger subscribers to enter cheaply through the doors of Covent Garden. It performs a further educational function in introducing commercial sponsors and their guests to opera within the reassuring ambience of great country houses.

But when it comes to new opera, the purpose is more questionable. Of course, there have been successes during the five years of the festival's existence, including memorable productions of Britten's *Death in Venice* and Verdi's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. But quite what these three extracts were doing together, beyond their more or less slender connection with walls, was unclear, nor was it obvious why the spoken passages were interwoven with a compact Requiem sung by the light and pleasant-voiced Barry Patterson.

Perhaps they were to be understood as parts of an uncompleted whole, like the solitary wall segments in the Kafka tale. Or perhaps the wall was the bare of the five trombones in a line at the back, unless it was the feedback-like noise that loomed up out of the loudspeakers at one point, or indeed the barrier of incomprehensibility presented by the work as a whole.

Albergo Empedocle is a little more entertaining, and even con-

tributes, despite a lot of unwise quatrains in the libretto, to be slightly more believable than the original story, which was the earliest story Forster published. If the irony is heavier, it is also surer, while the relaxing of taboos since 1903 makes it possible for Barker to be a lot clearer about the underlying theme of a young man's homosexual self-discovery while on holiday in Sicily with his fiancée and her parents.

However, this theme, and the style of respectful literature-opera, evoke comparisons with Britten which are not to Barker's advantage. The vocal writing, often a blank conveyance for the words, rises to something more only when it takes up the libretto's forced opportunities for arias, and even then the effect is caricature: the fiancée, for instance, is all volubility and high tessitura, to give a thick-lined sketch of a scatty, fanciful young woman.

The cast — Philippa Dames-Longworth and Simon Vaughan as the parents, Lucinda Broadbridge and John Cashmore as the parting young couple, and Howard Milner as the absent friend — went about their tasks with an unflinching enthusiasm that was rather sad in the circumstances. There is one final performance tomorrow evening.

These Barker efforts are running in alternation with a programme from the Birmingham Conservatoire, over which it is kind to draw a veil, except to say that there must be, there simply must be, better examples of student composition to be found somewhere in this country.

There certainly are better examples of music-theatre production. For instance, possibly the most striking small-scale production to have been seen anywhere in Britain during the past year, whatever one might think of the music, is the Music Theatre Wales presentation of Philip Glass's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. That, however, is coming to London not for the L.I.O.F. but for the Almeida Festival, which is also staging the long-awaited first performance of Gerald Barry's *The Intelligence Park* and a pair of new pieces by Cage.

It remains possible that next week's L.I.O.F. attraction — Mecklenburgh Opera in a promising operatic version of Bruno Schatz's *Mannheim* by Zbigniew Rudzinski — will redeem the contemporary side of this year's festival. But there is quite a lot of redeeming to be done.

PAUL GRIFFITHS  
● In next Tuesday's classical column, Richard Morrison reviews the Philharmonic's Berlin series

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ROCK

# City of sound and light, again

The DC-9 touched down in the Alpha-ville world of Charles de Gaulle airport just in time for us to watch the shops close on a few major boulevards. The press call was not until eight o'clock. I was on the Metro by five, mingling with bad-tempered Parisians in the real world.

By eight I was in an enormous hotel lobby with the rest of the international press posse, waiting to be bussed into the Futurezone. Our rendezvous was in La Défense, the smartest business park in the world, and an architectural playpen of unrelenting modernist extravagance.

From this place on Bastille Day — the centre of La Défense, between two of its towering slabs of black glass with chrome trim — Jean-Michel Jarre, husband of Charlotte Rampling, is to give another of his vast *son et lumière* concerts. Using the axis of La Grande Arche de La Défense and the Arc du Triomphe, the concert will splash vast projections across skyscrapers, beam light from the Place de l'Etoile to the Pont de Neuilly and dazzle an expected three million free French (that is, they do not have to pay), while the Jarre keyboards pour out medleys from his past (*Oxygène*, *Equinoxe*, *Revolutions* and so on) and times from his latest album, *Calypso*.

At 42, 14 years after the worldwide hit of *Oxygène*, Jarre is still a lynchpin of the French record industry, a man whose albums win consistent chart success internationally, despite their apparent immunity to musical trends.

Jarre insists that his concerts are simply "visual lyrics" for his music, the inverse of the colourful film soundtracks written by his father, Maurice Jarre. Yet his multi-media spectacles have, for many, eclipsed the albums on which they are based. Certainly his concert audience is larger than

**Oscar Moore flew to Paris to hear Jean-Michel Jarre announce details of his latest outdoor concert, on Bastille Day at La Défense**

his listening public; large enough to win him repeated entries in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

A music graduate of the Paris Conservatoire, Jarre pulled one million spectators and a television audience of 100 million with his first public performance in Paris on Bastille Day, 1979. He has consistently broken the barriers of concert technology, and audiences have followed enthralled. A 1986 concert, to celebrate Houston's 150th and NASA's 25th anniversary brought traffic to a standstill, as Jarre played his projectors across the skyline before a live audience of 1.3 million. The album, *Rendez-vous à Houston*, did not do badly either.

The Paris press conference was timed to coincide with the releasing of *Calypso* upon an expectant world. Jean-Michel had spent the whole day talking to the press, radio and television about his track "Waiting for Cousteau", something of a musical homage to the deep-sea pioneer, and praising the 60-strong Trinidadian steel band he was flying over to perform the title track. He was tired but still smiling. Against an aural backdrop of mating whales, piped eerily through the public-address system, the press conference started.

The German table went on to the attack. They wanted to pin their man to a cause: ecology, technology, under-

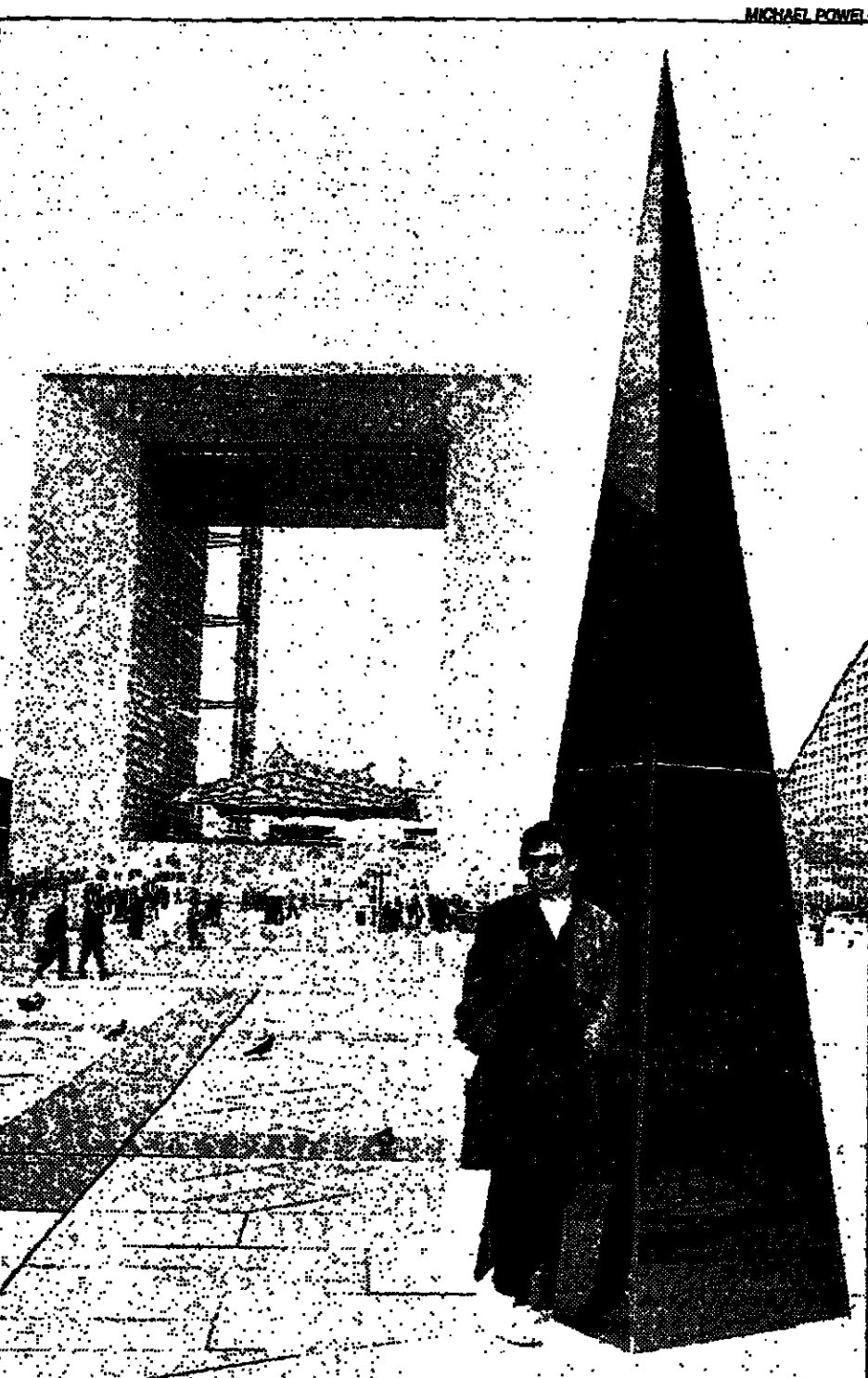
water biology, or simply the reunification of Germany. Jarre was not playing ball. He disliked the fashion for popstars espousing causes for concerts that happen to coincide with an album release date. He was not happy about charity concerts where the money raised vanished into numbered accounts. He was not about to cut his cloth to this year's trend. Even Berlin, he felt, was turning into a cliché. Roger Waters should have staged his concert there four years ago, when it counted.

I agree. What has Berlin done to deserve Roger Waters? But Waters and Jarre have something in common. Their music has resisted fashion. This is not necessarily a good thing: a groove can easily become a rut. Even Jarre's calypso sounds like concept-carnival. But Jarre's events — from Paris 1979 to Shanghai 1981, Houston and Lyon 1986, and Docklands 1988 — trip the light fantastic.

Well, perhaps not at Docklands. By the time the London Borough of Newham had finished wrangling with its political opposites on the London Docklands Development Corporation, the promoter had gone bust and the weather had gone bad. Jarre's single souvenir of the occasion, he said, was the devotion of "200,000 people standing in the icy rain with plastic bags on their heads". Half his crew still have not been paid by the promoter.

The potential for bureaucratic foul-up is abundant in Paris too, especially as the backers of the Bastille Day event include Mitterrand's Ministry of Culture and Chirac's City of Paris, but Jarre has been careful to give each of them their own responsibilities. The regional council of the Hauts de Seine has provided the scaffolding.

And the cost? "We'll know that on July 15th," says Jarre, with a grin.



Man in the middle: Jean-Michel Jarre at La Défense, site of the July 14 concert

## CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

### ROCK

**THE NEVILLE BROTHERS:** Stunning combination of soulful melodies and incendiary funk synopses, topped by Aaron Neville's sweet, airy falsetto. *Town & Country*, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, £10.

**ANITA BAKER:** With her lovely voice and classic auster look, she is every inch the soul diva of the CD era. *Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-502 1550),* Tues, 7.30pm, £15-£17.50. *NED Birmingham (021 780 4133),* Wed, 7.30pm, £12.50-£15.

**808 STATE:** The two DJs (Andy and Darren), the programmer (Graham Massey) and the "conceptualizer" (Maurice Price) take their name from a drum machine model, the Roland 808. Their mechanized mantras are shared up by a full laser and light show with support from Hacienda DJs Sasha and Steve Williams. Suitable for serious ravers only. *Mayfair, Newcastle Street, Newcastle (081 232 3108),* Mon, 9.30pm-1am, £7. *Liverpool University, 2 Bedford Street North (051 794 4143),* Wed, 8.30pm-1am, £7. *Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679),* Thurs, 8.30pm-1am, £7.

**PRINCE:** Reports from Europe speak of a "back to basics" show with more emphasis on the fellow's excellent stagecraft and less on hi-tech set design. Definitely the top ticket in town (until the arrival of the Rolling Stones next month). *Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-502 1550),* Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £16-£18.50.

**WORLD PARTY:** "Ship of Fools" group fronted by ex-Waterboys keyboardist Karl Wallinger. Pursuing a fashionably doom, ecological theme on their strong second album, *Goodbye Jumbo*, a crisp, intelligent collection of songs with echoes of early Rolling Stones in the vocal delivery. *Nottingham Polytechnic, Shakespeare Street (0302 476725),* Sun, 8.30pm, £5. *Newcastle University, King's Walk (081 232 8402),* Mon, 8.30pm, £5. *Irish Centre, York Road, Leeds (0532 480887),* Wed, 7.30pm, £5. *Royal Court, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321),* Thurs, 7.30pm, £5.

**DE LA SOUL:** Celebrated "Daisy Age" rappers. A marvel on record but so unsure of themselves live that their record company refused to allow the press access to review their last dates. *Keele University, Keele Road (0782 711411),* Mon, 8pm, £10. *Reading University, Whiteknights (0734 662222),* Tues, 9pm, £10.

**NEW MODEL ARMY:** Northern, post-punk, clog-wearing renegades with a slavishly devoted following. Their 1986 album, *The Ghost of Cain*, was an intense and superlative offering but they have since gone off the boil. *Brickton Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (071-235 1022),* tomorrow, 7.30pm, £7.50.

**THIN WHITE ROPE:** Faintly courted, highly recommended, psycho-frazzled guitar band from the desert community of Davis, California. *Stack Full of Silver* is the latest in a series of dark, cranky missives of still-crazy intensity. *Subterania, 12 Acklam Road, London W10 (081-681 5400),* Sun, 7.30pm, £5. *Duchess of York, 71 Vicar Lane, Leeds (0532 453929),* Mon, 7.30pm, £3. *Boardwalk, Little Peter Street, Manchester (061 229 3555),* Tues, 7.30pm, £5. *Jug, Northbridge Road, Doncaster (0302 361803),* Wed, 7pm, £2-£3.

**BRUCE DICKINSON:** Lead vocalist of Iron Maiden out on extra-curricular manoeuvres. The album, *Tattooed Millionaire*, is not bad, but his book, *The Adventures of Lord My Exorcism*, is to be avoided at all costs. *Mayfair, Newcastle Street, Newcastle (081 232 3108),* Tues, 7.30pm, £8. *Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham (0802 412544),* Wed, 7.30pm, £8. *Junction 10, Bentley Road North, Walsall (0822 648100),* Thurs, 8.30pm, £8.

**THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS:** The two Johns from Brooklyn. Their album, *Flunk*, came with more than its fair share of hype, but they have charmed audiences with their hyperactive combination of harmony pop, vaudeville and lightweight rock 'n' roll. *Redcar Bowl, Malby Road (0642 480636),* tonight, 7.30pm, £8. *Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303),* Sun, Mon, 7.30pm, £8.50. *Cardiff University, Park Place (0222 396421),* Tues, 7.30pm, £8. *Leicester University, University Road (0533 556262),* Thurs, 8.30pm, £5.

DAVID SINCLAIR

### JAZZ

**RONNIE SCOTT'S CLUB:** Cuban showman Arturo Sandoval pumps out the high notes until tomorrow, to be succeeded on Monday by fellow horn player Randy Brecker, whose brash jazz-rock output enjoyed commercial success in the Seventies. *47 Frith Street, London W1 (071-438 0747),* until June 23, 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs, £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat, £12 (members £5).

**PIZZA EXPRESS:** Reliable American reedman, Lew Tabackin, leads his trio through the changes (tonight, Sun, Wed, Thurs). Hard bop from the PE Modern Jazz Sextet on Monday and enjoyable trad-meinstream from the PE All Stars on Tuesday. *10 Dean Street, London W1 (071-438 8722),* nightly, 9.30pm, £8.

**808 CLUB:** Claire Martin, a sassy vocalist in the Anita O'Day mould, occupies the late slot on Monday, opposite bop pianist Simon Purcell. Other highlights are Dill Katz (late, Tues) and Russ Henderson (late, Wed). *90 Lots Road, London SW10 (071-352 5953),* nightly, first set 10pm-midnight, second set midnight-late, Sun-Thurs, £4.25 (members £2.75), Fri and Sat £4.50, (members £3).

**JEAN TOUSSAINT:** An evening with the emphasis on jazz dance as the Jazz Messengers' tenor player leads a quartet which owes as much to fusion as to his schooling with Art Blakey. *100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-636 0833),* tonight, 8.30pm-3am, £5.

**ANDREW CYRILLE:** Concluding his brief visit, the Free Jazz drummer improvises with guitarist Mark Hewins and bassist Paul Rogers. *Greenwich Festival, Trident Hall, Park Row, London SE10 (Information: 081-317 8887),* tonight, 8pm, £7. *Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount (Information: 0532 742486/608301),* tomorrow, doors open 7.30pm, £5.

**PIZZA HUT JAZZ:** The weekend event features the Canadian pianist Oliver Jones (tonight), plus Cayenne (tomorrow) and Randy Brecker, the Kenny Baker/Roy Williams Quintet, Janusz Camello and Guy Barker (all Sun). *The Stadium, Weymouth, Milton Keynes (0808 583928),* tonight-Sun, 8.15pm, price varies.

**SUE SHATTOCK:** In residence every Saturday this month, the singer is backed by the trio of her regular partner Terry Disley, concentrating on evergreens rather than pop-jazz fusion. *HO Restaurant, Camden Lock, London NW1 (071-485 6044),* tomorrow, doors 8.45pm, show 10.45pm, £5.

**JOHN SURMAN/JOHN TAYLOR:** An austere meeting of two of the British scene's elder statesmen. Taylor's brittle piano should be an appropriate foil for Surman's introspective baritone saxophone. *Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill, Birmingham (021 440 3838),* Sun, 8pm, £5.

**BILL FRISSELL:** Probably more inspiring as a sideman than as a leader, the American guitar technician plays compositions from the album *Before We Were Born*, helped by the eccentric cello of Hank Roberts. *Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) (plus the Andy Sheppard Band),* Mon, 7.30pm, £7.50-£12.50. *Leeds Irish Centre, York Road (0532 742486) (plus Andy Sheppard),* Wed, 8pm, £7.

**Band On The Wall, Swan Street, Manchester (061 832 8625),** Thurs, doors open 8.30pm, £6.50.

**KATHY STOBART:** A much under-rated saxophonist, the ex-Lyttelton veteran is celebrating half-a-century as a musician. *Saxby Wellies, Tony Coe and Harry Beckett* are among those joining in the party. *100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-636 0833),* Tues, 7.30pm-midnight, £5.

CLIVE DAVIS

### WORLD MUSIC

**AFRICAN DAWN:** Pan-African music and poetry collective, fusing Zulu and Shona rhythms from Southern Africa with rap, reggae, jazz and soul. *Willesden Green Library Centre, High Road, Willesden Green, London NW10 (081-451 0294),* tonight, 8.30pm, £4.

**SOUL BROTHERS:** One of South Africa's top Abaqanga groups, distinguished by their smooth instrumental and vocal sound, hard rhythms and flashy stage outfits. *International Two, Manchester (061 273 6725),* tonight, 7.30pm.

**77. Royal Court, Roe Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321),** tomorrow, 7pm, £7. *Barrowlands, Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 552 4801),* Sun, 7.30pm, £7.

**ODETTA:** Alabama-born folk singer who inspired singers as diverse as Harry Belafonte, Janis Joplin and Bob Dylan, and is now experiencing a new wave of interest in her work. *Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London N1 (071-729 2476),* Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, £6.

**CAMBODIAN NATIONAL DANCE:** The refined, ancient court music and dances of Cambodia were almost eliminated during the tenor of the Pol Pot years. Painsakkingly reconstructed since 1979, they may once again be unearthed. *The Old Athenaeum, Buchanan Street, Glasgow (041-332 2333),* Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, £8.

**LA CIAPA RUSA:** Sextet from Northern Italy who play regional Italian traditional music on hurdy-gurdy, melodian, fiddle and piffero. *Band on the Wall, Swan Street, Manchester (061-532 8625),* Mon-Sat, 8.30pm (£3 before 9.30pm).

**EYUPHURO:** Refreshingly subtle and soothing band from Mozambique. Their guitar-based music interweaves African, Arabic, Latin and Portuguese influences. Sharing this bargain bill of southern African music are the Kafala Brothers, Thomas Mepfumo and the Massau Band.

*Moss Side Carnival, Alexandra Park, Moss Side, Manchester (061 234 3013),* tomorrow, 8-8pm, free.

**THOMAS MEFUMO:** The musical hero of Zimbabwe, thanks to his anthems of the independence struggle. Mepfumo's sorrowful voice now addresses the problems of corruption and poverty. *Com Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 357851),* Sun, 8.45pm, £7.50.

**BEVERLEY FOLK FESTIVAL:** Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Vin Garbutt and La Cigala Russa are among the highlights of this three-day event.

Various venues including the Picture Playhouse, Beverley, Humberside. (Festival information: 037 751662), tonight-Sun: weekend ticket £19.

DAVID TOOP

### ROCK ALBUMS

## Ringing the same bells too often

**The Chimes:** The Chimes (CBS 468481-1). THE Chimes have reaped the just rewards for their scintillating treatment of U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For", one of those rare instances of a cover version revealing hidden depths in an otherwise over-familiar song. But there is nothing else so obviously impressive on the Anglo-Scottish trio's debut album.

For the most part, numbers such as "True Love" and "Underestimate" ching along in the same sleepy, funk-shuffle groove employed on "I Still Haven't Found". A rhythm and tempo which is fast becoming the hallmark of homegrown soul in the wake of the phenomenal success of Soul II Soul (whose Jazze B and Nellie Hooper take production credits on two of the songs here).

Despite the occasionally overbearing histrionics, Pauline Henry's singing is clearly not in the same league as that of such established Brit-soul stars as Paul Johnson or Mica Paris, but she is always an imposing presence. Her partners are more of a mystery.

Maintaining an unwavering pulse with absolutely no ornamentation whatsoever, drummer James Locke has an uncanny facility for sounding like a drum machine or sampled sequence. Meanwhile, on "Underestimate" and "Don't Make Me Wait", Mike Pederson's bass writes like a worm forging an eccentric passage through the subsoil of the songs' arrangements. The middle ground between voice and rhythm section remains, for the most part, eerily uncluttered, with guest musicians such as Pete Wingfield and Simon Law offering piquant piano colourings.

The smoky, after-hours ambience of "Stronger Together" contrasts with the brighter Joyce Sims-like bounce of the almost-hit "1 2 3", but it is only on "Heaven" that the ensemble picks up any real impetus. Here Pederson's sinuous bass line locks on to a taut, clattering percussion motif, above which Henry's voice ranges like a prowling tiger, offering an all too tantalizing glimpse of what this album might have been.

**John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers:** *A Sense of Place* (Island 842 795-2). **Rory Gallagher:** *Freddie Evidence* (Capo LP14).

**Ronnie Earl and the Broadcatters:** *Peace of Mind* (Black Top/Demon FEND 169). Two veterans of the first British blues boom enjoy a second flowering in the improved climate of the Nineties. Both John Mayall (56) and Rory Gallagher (42) make their most telling contributions in years by adopting a process of subtraction and simplification, whittling their music down to the essentials rather than layering it with any flashy, otiose embellishments.

Mayall, whose Bluesbreakers played host in the

Sixties to a legion of future stars, including Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Peter Green, continues to display his knack for talent-spotting by reuniting slide guitarist Sonny Landreth (borrowed from John Hiatt's band, in fact), probably as good a non-big-name player as you would find in rock today. During a sparkling version of J.J. Cale's "Sensitive Kind", Landreth and guitarist Coco Montoya play their interlocking parts with sumptuous finesse.

Rory Gallagher marshals a much harsher, grubbier attack on his *Freddie Evidence*, most notably on the tracks "Middle Name" and "Heaven's Gate" where his solos come in sudden, jabbing bursts that land across a measured, swampy beat like punches to the solar plexus. By way of contrast there is an acoustic track, "Empire State Express" and the rootsy "King of Zydeco", where Gallagher introduces a neat dash of accordion for the first time.

Ronnie Earl, something of a spring chicken at 37, can nevertheless boast 20 years in the business, including an eight-year stint with renowned Rhode Islanders Roomful of Blues. Now a prominent member of the New Orleans Black Top "mafia", Earl has perfected a blues guitar style that is the apogee of post-Cray sophistication. Typical is the instrumental "Bonehead Too" where he uses a clean Fender tone to plaster the walls of the song with sleek, dazzling layers of solo decorations, while the Broadcatters — a band traditional enough in outlook to employ separate musicians to play organ and piano — keep the relaxed boogie groove snug in the pocket.

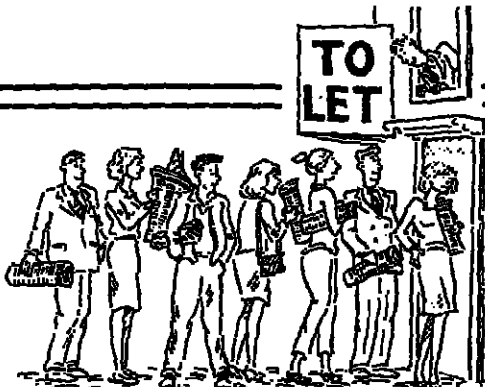
Peter Hook is the bass player from New Order with a thuggish demeanour. When on stage, he seems to think he is playing guitar in Metallica. Revenge is his extra-curricular group, and this debut gives him the chance, first, to prove he can sing at least as well as Barney Sumner (if approximately one octave lower) and, second, to get a raunchy fetishist snap of a leather-clad model on the cover instead of all that tastelessly nondescript artwork that the rest of New Order will insist on having.

Musically, the set-up is predictable: mechanistic four-on-the-floor programmed drums, synths blipping like a geiger-counter in the fields near Sellafield, guitars and keyboards interfacing with soulless efficiency where required, bass player on a trip to the moon. But the delicacy and fragile sense of wonder that distinguishes much of New Order's work is in short supply here.

"Slave" will get the new generation of dancefloor ravers raving and "Surf Nazi" has a bit more punch and poke than most of it, but overall the collection suffers from a desultory and dispiriting feel.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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# BUSINESS

صوتك من الامم

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

FRIDAY JUNE 15 1990

## BT pays £320,000 to end contract

GRAEME Odgers, the former group managing director of British Telecom, received £320,000 compensation after his employment contract was terminated prematurely in March when the company announced a sweeping management overhaul, (Angela Mackay writes).

This amount is £220,000 short of the sum Mr Odgers would have earned if he had worked out his contract. In the year ended March 31, he was paid about £270,000 according to the report and accounts published yesterday.

His departure was caused by a drastic diminution of his responsibilities in the reorganisation that will reduce the number of BT's managers by about 4,500 this year.

Among those on the board, Mr Odgers was the biggest shareholder in BT by a wide margin, owning 60,178 shares.

### Hewden warning

Sir Matthew Goodwin, the chairman of Hewden Stuart, Scotland's largest plant hire group, told shareholders at the annual meeting that in the past few weeks the group had revised its view of the year downwards. He said: "While trading overall is at present being maintained at satisfactory levels and turnover is in line with budget, the outlook for the construction industry is more difficult than anticipated only a few weeks ago." Cash flow, however, remains strong and borrowings are substantially below the levels of a year ago and should continue to decrease, giving the ability to take advantage of any opportunities that arise. The shares fell 6p to 99p.

### VSEL ahead

Shares in VSEL Consortium, the defence contractor that makes Britain's Trident-carrying submarines, surged by 37p to 386p after the company revealed better than expected results. Pre-tax profits rose 79 per cent to £30.6 million in the year to end-March, on group turnover ahead by 15 per cent to £555.8 million. The final dividend is improved to 15.5p, making a total of 20p for the year, compared with 11p last year.

Tempus, page 27

## Saunders was 'livid' over Ronson letter

By PAUL WILKINSON

ERNEST Saunders yesterday spoke of his anger at the publication of letters linking him to £5.8 million in fees paid by Guinness to the Heron International group for allegedly illegal help in the Distillers takeover.

One covered the return of the fee by Gerald Ronson, Heron's chairman, after the Department of Trade and Industry began an investigation into the 1986 takeover.

The second was an acknowledgement from Sir Norman Macfarlane, the man who succeeded Mr Saunders as chairman of Guinness after the takeover.

Mr Saunders said: "I was absolutely furious, livid and worse. Here was now a bandwagon rolling, Guinness had hired me, the press were going bananas and now here was another suggestion of somebody jumping on the bandwagon."

"Guinness had made clear Saunders was to be blamed for the DTI inquiry and the easiest thing to do was to knock another nail in his coffin."

"I was incensed at the exchanges between those writing on behalf of Mr Ronson and Sir Norman. They were patting each other on the back about doing the honest and decent thing and talking about releasing this to the press."

"I could see how it suited Guinness to have a third party suggesting things about Ernest Saunders. That exchange of correspondence did me a great deal of harm."

Mr Saunders, Mr Ronson, Anthony Parnes, a broker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, all deny involvement in an allegedly illegal share support scheme which allowed Guinness to win control of Distillers in the takeover battle with Argyll, the Scottish supermarket chain. They deny 24 counts alleging theft, false

accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Saunders had earlier rejected evidence given by Mr Ronson to the DTI inspectors that the success fee had been negotiated over a lunch at Guinness's headquarters on April 3, 1986.

Ronson had claimed that he had agreed to support Guinness's share price by spending up to £25 million on the brewery company's shares. In return Mr Saunders had promised his companies a £5 million success fee and to cover any losses Heron might incur when the shares were eventually sold. That ultimately cost Guinness another £800,000.

Mr Saunders yesterday agreed that the lunch had taken place but denied there had been any discussions of Heron assisting Guinness by buying shares.

They had discussed the possibility of Heron taking over some of the property assets acquired in the takeover and also its supplying of company cars to Guinness.

Mr Saunders claimed he queried payments of more than £5 million to two of his co-defendants in the Guinness affair. But he was told the money was for essential services provided by Sir Jack Lyons and Mr Parnes.

Mr Saunders told Southwark Crown Court in London that when he raised Sir Jack's fees with Thomas Ward, the US lawyer and a Guinness director, he was told that Sir Jack had provided invaluable political assistance during the bid.

He had been particularly helpful in writing a letter to the prime minister in an effort to ensure that Guinness's office was not referred by the Office of Fair Trading to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Ward had asked him: "What price can you put on getting through the OFT?" Mr Saunders said there was

no suggestion of any improper behaviour by Margaret Thatcher, but when the letter had been passed down from No 10 to the government department responsible it undoubtedly had received treatment at a higher level than might otherwise have been the case.

He said that the fee paid to Mr Parnes had been justified to him by Olivier Roux, his finance director, as Mr Parnes had supplied vital market intelligence. Mr Roux has since become the Crown's main prosecution witness.

Mr Saunders said yesterday that there was no suggestion that he had been asked to approve the payments. Mr Roux and Mr Ward had already negotiated them with his two co-defendants.

Later in the hearing Mr Saunders, who is spending his seventh day in the witness box, told how he discovered that a £200,000 nest egg had been invested, unknown to him, in Guinness shares. He had given the money to Sir Jack to invest on his behalf and believed it was being held in Swiss francs or securities. It was only when he needed to obtain the cash to help pay his defence expenses after he had been dismissed that he discovered where the money was invested.

He told the court that it was the last investment he would have made because as chairman of Guinness he already had stock options for hundreds of thousands of Guinness shares. These had subsequently been withdrawn from him when he was dismissed.

The money when the shares were sold was handed directly by his representative to his British lawyer to cover defence fees. It was something which he said had provoked the first big argument with his wife as half of the capital had belonged to her and neither of them saw any of the money.



Weighty matters: Sir Jack Lyons (left) in conversation with one of his lawyers before yesterday's hearing

## Johnson Matthey in £67m revamp

By JOHN BELL  
CITY EDITOR

JOHNSON Matthey, the metals processing and marketing group, is making about 200 employees redundant at its Brimsdown, North London, plant as part of a restructuring that will cost £67 million.

Several hundred jobs will go in the British and American head offices and elsewhere in production, distribution, sales and administration.

David Davies, who took over as chairman on January 1, said that costs at all levels had been growing faster than revenues. The objective of the streamlining was to create business with greater critical mass, to cut back on peripheral activities and to improve profit margins.

The moves led to a £14 million exceptional item that together with higher costs and a downturn in American car markets and the British housing industry, trimmed pre-tax profits from £64.4 million last year to £48.2 million.

The decision to scale down the Brimsdown businesses, which were making losses at the rate of £5 million a year, gave rise to the bulk of a £53.3 million post-tax extraordinary charge. Mr Davies, in his first annual statement, said the Brimsdown cut-backs would be self-financing.

Operating profits in the materials technology division rose 12 per cent to £25.8 million due to rationalisation benefits and growth in biomedical products.

Catalytic systems suffered from a downturn in the US, its largest market, with operating profits down 4 per cent at £17.9 million. A new plant was commissioned in Brussels to take advantage of EC legislation on car exhaust emissions that comes into force in the next three years. Johnson Matthey has the largest share of the US market and analysts expect substantial growth in Europe.

Precious metals profits were down 6 per cent, at the operating level, to £22.3 million. The group's smallest division, colours and printing, was hit by the housing downturn with operating profits falling 24 per cent to £7.8 million.

Dividends increased by 6.25 per cent to a total of 8.5p, after a final payment of 6p.

Tempus, page 27

## JRH to demerge half its assets

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

HALF the £500 million assets of J Rothschild Holdings are to be bived off into a unit trust in a further move to return capital to shareholders.

Lord Rothschild, the chairman, said the internal tax advantages of holding portfolio investments through a unit trust, which pays no capital gains tax, were so great that the board had to ask whether it really needed to keep all its capital. "We were convinced that £250 million of capital would be enough to do what we want," he added.

The demerger plan, though well received in the City, was announced at the same time as unexpectedly poor investment results from JRH for the year to end-March, which left the group's asset value lower than a year ago. On the stock market, where traders seem to have heard advanced rumours of the good news but not of the bad, JRH shares tumbled 35p to 161p, after touching 154p in the morning.

The new unit trust, to be called Bishopsgate Growth, will join a stable already managed by a JRH subsidiary. The remaining quoted company is to be renamed St James's Place Investments and will take the group's

unquoted investments and some special situations as well as stakes in the previously demerged RIT Capital Partners and Anglo Group, the partnership with Sir James Goldsmith.

Lord Rothschild said St James's Place would remain more of a dealing company than RIT.

In 1989-90, JRH suffered from misjudging the markets and from its involvements in the Hovlake bid for BAT and the possible consortium bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall.

Pre-tax profits fell from £134 million to £57.9 million due to the dearth of realised investment gains and unrealised gains dropped from £58.6 million to £1.4 million. Net assets per share fell from 186.5p to 170.8p or 180.8p including dividends paid. But the dividend has still been increased from 9.5p to 10p per share from earnings of 11.5p (32.1p).

Comment, page 27

## Battered VPI seeks damages

VPI Group, the public relations company, hopes to receive up to £30 million in damages from Don Carter, the former head of its New York corporate takeover subsidiary, who pleaded guilty in March to grand larceny and tax evasion, if settlement can be reached before his sentencing on July 10.

However, it is feared that VPI, which acquired The Carter Organization for \$67 million in 1987 and last month filed a lawsuit against Mr Carter for alleged misrepresentation of the business and alleged racketeering fraud, will probably face three to five years of expensive litigation.

VPI yesterday blamed a slump in Wall Street takeover activity and bad publicity over the Carter debacle for a £3.5 million drop in group fee and commission income to £10.8 million and a fall into group pre-tax losses of £1.9 million for the six months to March 31, compared to a pre-tax profit of £5.1 million.

The shares, 273p before the 1987 stock market crash and below 60p after a fall in last year's pre-tax profits from £14.1 million to £6.5 million, closed down 4p at 16p yesterday. Earnings per share fell from 7.4p to 4.2p. There is no interim dividend.

## Unemployment figures rise for second month

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYMENT rose for the second month in a row in May, climbing a seasonally-adjusted 4,400 to 1,611,000, or 5.7 per cent of the workforce, after being stuck at 5.6 per cent since February.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, called the rise "disappointing". In the City, it was seen as confirmation that the counter-inflationary squeeze has ended over three and a half years of labour market tightening.

Easier conditions were evident also in the latest average earnings figures. The provisional data, issued yesterday, showed underlying earnings growing at an annual 9.5 per cent in April, unchanged since January. In April last year it was 9.25 per cent.

The financial markets had expected a pick-up in earnings growth, given known inflation-plus pay deals. But smaller bonuses and less overtime, appear to have offset higher pay awards.

Flat earnings growth, while good news for the government, leaves unit wage costs rising faster in Britain than in its competitors. Mr Howard said: "The interruption in the



Howard: disappointed

downward trend in unemployment need only be short-term, but much depends on the readiness of wage bargainers to reach realistic settlements.

Revised figures for unit labour costs in the final quarter of last year gave an annual rise of 9.3 per cent, against a previously reported 9.0 per cent. Among pay awards boosting earnings were 10.1 per cent to British Telecom engineers, 8.5 per cent to staff at Gateway supermarkets. The top award was 15.4 per cent by the Church of England.

In services, earnings growth has slowed to an annual 9.0 per cent from 9.25 per cent in February. The March figure

was also adjusted down to 9.0 per cent from 9.25 per cent. In manufacturing, growth held steady at 9.5 per cent.

Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais Securities, the securities house, predicted earnings growth will soon be 10 per cent. The markets shrugged off the economic data, as they did remarks by Pierre Berégovoy, the French finance minister, welcoming sterling if it becomes a full member of European Monetary Union.

But positive sentiment for the pound generated by hopes of sterling soon joining the European Monetary Union's exchange rate mechanism continued to provide support.

The pound closed at 90.6, unchanged from Wednesday in a quiet market. West Germany was shut for a public holiday. The FT-SE 100 ended 2.4 lower at 2,403.0. In the money markets, the three month London interbank rate was little changed at 14 1/2-14 3/4 per cent.

In the US, wholesale inflation picked up again last month, with the producer price index showing modest rise of 0.3 per cent after three months of declines. A rise of 0.2 per cent had been forecast on Wall Street after an 0.3 per cent fall in April.

## Gillette deal referred to MMC

## Checking out a growth industry

By DEREK HARRIS  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A DEAL that could give America's Gillette control of about an 80 per cent share of the wet shaving market in the UK has been sent for investigation to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary.

The wet shaving market of razors and blades is estimated to be worth more than £70 million a year and growing at an annual rate of about 8 per cent. Some estimates suggest Gillette has about a 60 per cent share by value already and Wilkinson Sword about 20 per cent with France's Bic big in the throwaway sector. Other estimates put Gillette over the 60 per cent mark and Wilkinson Sword closer to 16 per cent.

In a move to ensure that the possible

competition effects of the deal, which involves Wilkinson Sword, will be investigated. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, has also asked the MMC to investigate the wet shave market on a monopoly reference focused on the implications of the Gillette deal. The MMC has been asked to complete both investigations within six months and publish them together. The reason for the move is that it is possible the MMC might decide that the deal does not amount to a merger.

The Swedish management of Swedish Match AB, which includes Wilkinson Sword shaving products, is, through Swedish Match NV, a Dutch-based company, acquiring in a leveraged buyout Swedish Match AB and other consumer product interests of Stora of

Sweden. Stora is the latest of four owners of Wilkinson Sword since it merged with British Match in 1973. In much of the world Gillette is acquiring Wilkinson Sword's national businesses, but in the EC Gillette would take a minority stake of about 22 per cent in Swedish Match with non-voting shares. At the same time, Gillette would participate in financing the management buyout.

Gillette said it was surprised at the OFT and DTI decisions because the proposed deal "precludes Gillette from having any ability to participate in or influence the Wilkinson Sword business" within the EC. The transaction would have no effect in the already highly competitive UK market.

Rash of referrals, page 27



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## Cater Allen in £14m rights issue

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CATER ALLEN Holdings, the City financial group, is to raise £14 million extra capital via a rights issue to expand its Sheppards Moneybrokers business, which is benefitting from the greater complexity of professional dealings on the stock market.

The Stock Exchange money broker is one of a small group licensed to borrow stocks and shares from financial institutions and lend them to market-makers to cover short sales and arbitrage operations. This business has been expanded from gilt-edged into equities and Cater Allen has recently pioneered lending of foreign stocks. This is more profitable but the Bank of England requires bigger capital backing.

James Barclay, chairman, said expansion of the money-broking business had raised capital required by regulators from £10 million to £18 million since it was bought 19 months ago and this might rise to £25 million on expansion plans.

In the year to end-April Sheppards Moneybrokers contributed £1.42 million, against £570,000 for six

months, to group after-tax profits, which rose 24 per cent to £7.44 million.

The original discount house division had another difficult year due to high short-term interest rates but still raised net profit from £480,000 to £760,000. This includes a smaller loss from gilt-edged market-making.

Cater Allen's much expanded Lloyd's underwriting agencies made £2.99 million, down from £3.26 million. But Mr Barclay warned shareholders that Lloyd's profits, which related to the 1987 underwriting account, were likely to fall over the next two years.

The group's expanding Jersey banking business made £1.94 million after tax, against £1.49 million, and is now benefiting from independent taxation through gross interest accounts for non-working wives.

The dividend rose from 23.5p to 24.5p. After the rights issue, which will be two shares for every nine held at 33.5p, the group expects at least to maintain its dividend rate on the increased capital.

Cater Allen's shares lost 3p to 417p.



Presenting research: Alan Woltz, yesterday, before flying to an Aids conference

## LIG improves to £36m

ALAN Woltz, chairman and chief executive of London International Group, which makes condoms and surgical gloves, is flying to San Francisco today for an international conference on Aids (Gillian Bowditch writes).

He will present research showing that although young people understand the risks of Aids, many still have not changed their habits to avoid contracting the disease.

Condoms account for only 10 per cent of the group's business but the market is

growing at about 5 per cent a year. LIG's pre-tax profits for the year to March rose 20.5 per cent to £36.5 million on sales up 14.1 per cent at £351 million.

Earnings per share rose 18.6 per cent to 19.2p and the total dividend was up 15.2 per cent at 8.35p. There was an extraordinary charge of £3.3 million mostly due to the restructuring of manufacturing businesses.

LIG is building up market share in America for its Biogel starch-free surgical gloves and

the business is expected to be a major revenue generator in the future. The group is also looking to Eastern Europe, which is expected to be an important market in several years' time.

A condom manufacturing plant is being built in the Soviet Union and orders have come from Romania, where LIG recently donated 1.25 million condoms and 250,000 sterile syringes.

Shares in the group rose 7p to 236p.

Times, page 27

## Philips shares slip after warning

From REUTER  
IN AMSTERDAM

SHARES in Philips Gloeilampenfabriek opened 1.80 guilders lower at Fl 31.80 (£9.78) on the Amsterdam bourse.

The stock's fall followed a warning from Philips that it expected 1990 second-quarter results to be considerably lower than the Fl 197 million net profit, excluding extraordinary gains, in the same period last year.

For the year 1990, Philips said profits from normal activities, excluding extraordinary gains, would be at a very low level, against Fl 792 million in 1989.

"On the basis of the performance in the months of April and May 1990, we anticipate that the results for the second quarter will be considerably lower than those of the corresponding quarter of 1989," Philips said in a statement.

"Net results from normal business operations for 1990 as a whole will, also in view of provisions to be made for restructuring, be at a very low level."

The company said it would give more detailed information about the results at its July 2 extraordinary general meeting, which was called to nominate Jan Timmer as the new president.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Health food supplier aims to raise £4.08m

NORTHUMBRIAN Fine Foods, the health food and biscuit supplier, is raising £4.08 million via a five for four rights issue at 37p. The group will use the money to reduce debt and to provide working capital to increase business.

Northumbrian reduced its pre-tax loss from £399,000 to £279,000 for the year to March. Turnover increased from £5.76 million to £6.9 million and the group made an operating profit of £404,000 compared with a £30,000 operating loss last year. But an interest charge of £683,000 wiped out profits. The loss per share is 3.03p (4.31p). There was an extraordinary charge of £208,000 for restructuring the business. The dividend is 0.75p, unchanged from last time. The shares on the USM fell 2p to 48p.

### Flexello loss hits shares

SHARES in Flexello Castings fell 43p to 103p after the mechanical engineering group sank into losses of £378,000 for the half-year to March from a £508,000 profit in the previous year. The directors say that a second-half trading profit is unlikely, but are maintaining the 1.67p half-year dividend. Losses per share are 0.07p (10.12p earnings). The board has charged a £100,000 special provision for stock obsolescence.

### Buy-back for Tarmac stock

TARMAC, the building materials group, has agreed to repurchase a \$188 million preferred stock issue made to the vendor when in 1988 it bought Lone Star Industries' 40 per cent interest in a joint venture between them. The \$147 million price represents a 22 per cent discount to the issue's par value. It is to be funded by dollar-denominated auction market preferred stock. America Tarmac said Lone Star had proposed the deal.

### £10m for GM plant

GENERAL Motors has underlined its confidence in British manufacturing by announcing a further £10 million investment at its Kirby plant on Merseyside to manufacture sophisticated engine electronic management systems. Almost all production from the plant, belonging to Delco Electronics Corporation, will go abroad, increasing its export earnings from the current £60 million to about £105 million over the next three years.

Britain was chosen again for expansion by the world's biggest motor maker just weeks after deciding to spend £160 million on a new engine manufacturing facility at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

### James Finlay up to £12.3m

JAMES Finlay, the Glasgow-based tea and cotton planter and trader, raised profits from £7.3 million to £12.3 million in the year to end-December. Total dividend for the year is unchanged at 4.15p out of earnings up from 5.2p to 6.5p. Profits at the trading level in merchanting rose from £1.9 million to £3.2 million and plantation profits rose from £3.2 million to £5.6 million. The shares slipped 4p to 111p.

### Cropper falls to £1m

JAMES Cropper, the Kendal, Cumbria, paper group suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.95 million to £1 million in the year to the end of March. But the group, which believes it is over the worst, is raising the total dividend for the year by 0.2p to 2.7p despite a fall in earnings from 22.4p to 12.0p due to higher interest rates and pulp costs. Sales rose from £35.3 million to £39.1 million and the shares rose 2p to 125p.

### GPA and CHC link

GPA Group, the aircraft leasing company, said it is to establish a new company, GPA Helicopters, with CHC Helicopter Corporation of Canada.

The helicopters will be owned equally by the two companies which will buy, own and lease all types of helicopters world-wide. GPA Helicopters, based in Shannon, Ireland, will have initial capital of \$20 million. Irish-based GPA is the world's leading aircraft leasing company and has 253 aircraft. CHC, which trades on the Toronto stock exchange, operates as Canadian Helicopters, the world's second largest commercial helicopter fleet. It has 256 aircraft in service.

### French seeking 20% ASD stake

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

USINOR Sidor, of France, Europe's largest steel producer, has made another foray into the UK steel market through a £11.5 million tender offer for a 20 per cent stake in ASD, Britain's second largest steel stockholder.

The deal marks another stage in the Europeanisation of a traditionally national industry and illustrates a recent trend in Britain towards vertical integration in the industry, common on the Continent.

Usinor and ASD have also decided to create a joint venture company, a strip mill processing centre, to be located at Barking, Essex. Usinor will have a 51 per cent stake in the £7 million project.

Usinor already owns, in Britain, two sales companies and a small steel stockholder, and lists Nissan as one of its biggest customers.

Usinor is offering 155p for about 5.87 million ordinary

shares and 100p for 2.41 million convertible preference shares. Shareholders are invited to tender 20 per cent of their holdings. Stencom Holdings, which owns 77.7 per cent of the shares, has already agreed to tender 20 per cent of its holding and will cover any shortfall. ASD's shares, listed on the USM, rose from 91p to 105p after the announcement.

Usinor's move comes less than two months after ASD gave a warning that the current year would not be easy. ASD said the liaison with Usinor was necessary to strengthen its position in stockholding in Britain.

ASD, which already operates a strip processing through its Welbeck International subsidiary, said that the Usinor link would speed the development of that business. The link would not endanger ASD's relationship with British Steel, it said.

### FKI profit slump ends 16-year run

By MATTHEW BOND

FKI, the electrical products group which issued a profit warning in February, has reported pre-tax profits of £54.7 million in the year to March, 20 per cent below "equivalent" figures for 1989 and in line with revised expectations.

Comparison is on a continuing activities basis, because of last August's demerger of the power and projects division as Babcock International. The demerger raised £251 million for FKI shareholders.

The slump brings to an end 16 years of rising profits. "It is an unfortunate fact of life that nothing lasts forever," said Tony Gartland, chair-

man. But he was confident that last year's results would prove to be a blip.

Since the demerger, Mr Gartland's plans to restructure FKI further by selling off its North American interests have been thwarted by the collapse of the junk bond market. FKI had hoped to raise more than £300 million through the sale.

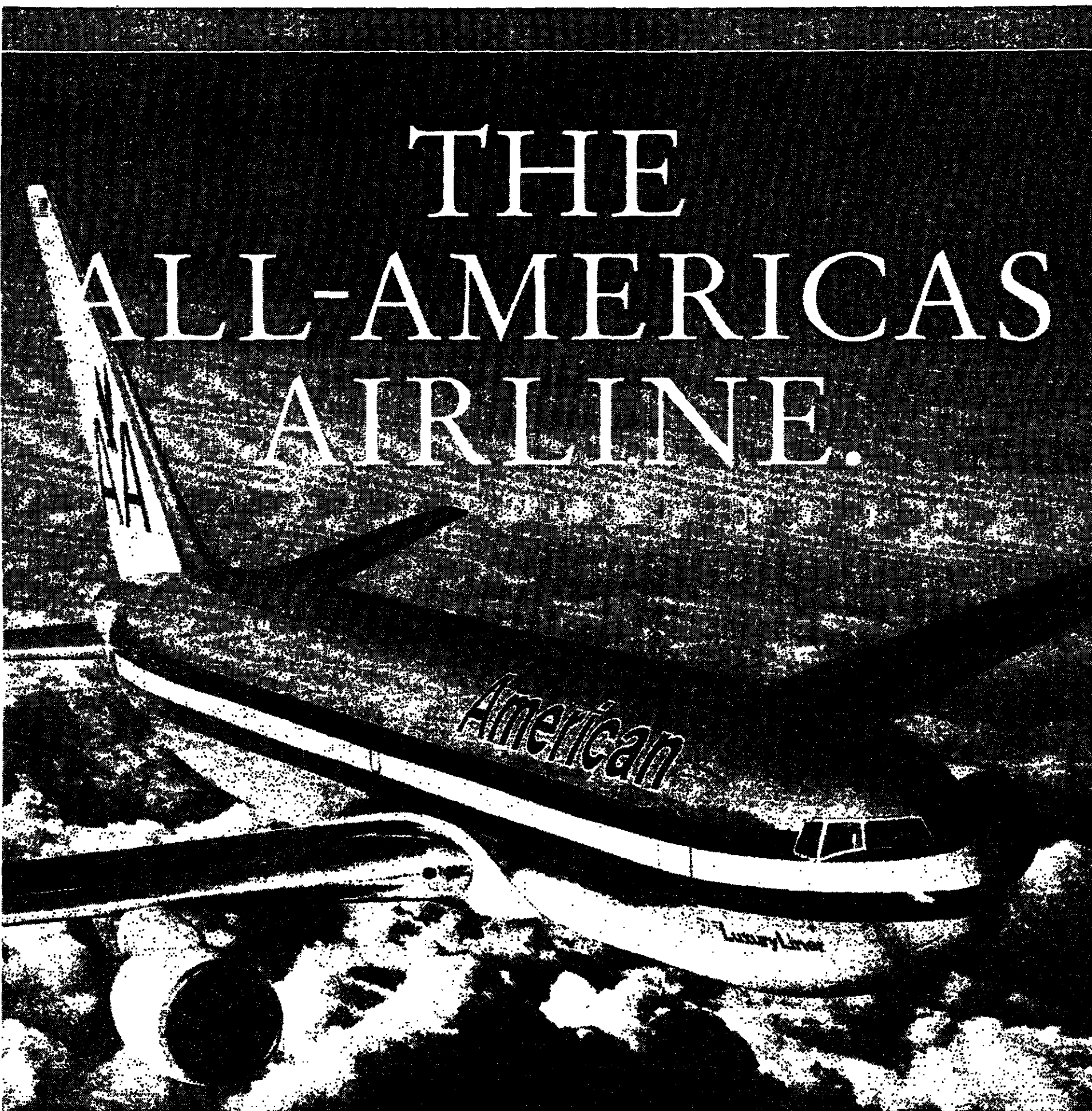
FKI will now retain the American business, Babcock Industries, following a restructuring exercise.

A final dividend of 2p makes 4p (4.5p) total. But the demerged Babcock shares carried a dividend of 3p, making the comparable figure 7.5p.

### Watson & Philip interims rise

WATSON & Philip, the cash-and-carry and grocery group, has raised pre-tax profits from £1.2 million to £1.5 million for the half year to end-April.

The dividend rises from 2.85p to 3.1p out of earnings up from 2.85p to 3.1p. Cash-and-carry profits rose 15 per cent to £950,000.



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\*Some served by American Eagle, our regional airline associate.

### Unlucky for some

TERRY Connor, joint managing director of

Flaming Securities, said the firm's decision on Monday

to sell from UK equity

making in all stocks

30 or so corporate

was a director of

Connor, aged 51, joined

the firm 18 months ago

from Springcourt Vi

ltd. Prior to that

worked for County

Woodhouse, having

board when County

companies' special

demerger brings the

of job losses at Flem

ing to 13. It has

very amicable," says

centennial securities

ing. "He is going off

a holiday and a good

son," Bob Wade, C

man, and also his

will lead of market-n

is still with the firm

from Wade's brother

has been appointed

managing UK equity

operation and

market continues as

making in its

real European divisi

Exchange victo

The Stock Exchange

spurred home to

by seven goals to

Gael's Polo Club in W



The ghost of unemployment rising month after month that dominated the first seven years of the government's life has returned. In the latest figures, the number out of work rose by about 4,000 after a rise of 2,000 the previous month, and although the pattern may reverse from time to time, practically every economic forecaster expects the general direction to be upwards for at least the rest of the year. Barclays, for instance, is forecasting an average monthly increase next year of about 15,000.

One does not have to be an incurable optimist to see some striking differences, as well as similarities, between the early 1990s and the early 1980s. Although inflation is now rising again, as it was then, it is likely to peak just below 10 per cent rather than rising well into double figures. The weapons to be applied to squeezing out inflation can be commensurately less fearsome. Although the pound is rising, no one expects it to rise above \$2.40, as it did in the early 1980s. Although business failures have been increasing, with some

notable scalps recently in the retail sector, the extent of the squeeze will not be nearly as great.

How painful reducing inflation will be depends a lot on whether the economy is now more flexible than it was at the beginning of the decade, particularly in respect of pay. If firms and their employees can adjust pay settlements to reflect slowing output, falling productivity and rising unit costs, rather than reflecting increasing inflation, then failures will be fewer and unemployment will rise less.

The auguries are not altogether reassuring. A new survey by Industrial Relations Services suggests that in spite of the rise in inflation, index-linked pay settlements are widespread and likely to remain popular for some time to come. Settlements that link pay rigidly to past price experience, allowing nothing for the circumstances of different firms and different industries in different

parts of the country, will not help to minimise unemployment. Centralised pay bargaining can work reasonably well, as in Germany and Japan, when inflation is low and settlements are largely synchronised to occur at one time of year. The alternative US model, in which bargaining is more localised and allows greater variation, is probably preferable. Worst is Britain, where bargaining is both centralised and unsynchronised, encouraging an endless game of leapfrog.

We handicap ourselves further by relying mainly on a measure of inflation, the retail price index, which exaggerates inflation when it is rising by reflecting the very increases in mortgage rates that are designed to curb the rise in prices. The interaction of a squeeze in demand with rates of pay that reflect past inflation —

exaggerated at that — is a potent recipe for unemployment. One of the most useful contributions to a reform of the supply side of the economy would be to adopt a new benchmark of inflation.

## Unbundling

Ironies of the Hoylake affair abound in Lord Rothschild's companies. The institutions objected to the bid for BAT Industries on the ground that too much of the profit was reserved to the bidding consortium and its principals. In the event, BAT has emerged sharper and as a leaner, to the dual and sole benefit of its original shareholders. The performance of the unsuccessful bidders has, by contrast, been tarnished more than their image.

The direct loss to J Rothschild

Holdings is much smaller than at RIT Capital Partners, or than some expected: about £2 million on Hoylake in the year to end-March, to which may be added £1.8 million on Ranks Hovis McDougall shares. The investment performance in the second half was more of a debacle. JRH made a small pre-tax loss, saw its net asset value shrink from 201p to 181p, including all dividends, and was left with unrealised capital gains of £1.4 million, down from £51 million.

That suggests that the bid excitement took the eyes of Lord Rothschild and his legendary investment director, Nils Taube, completely off the ball.

The need to reserve funds for the real BAT bid and a potential bid for RHM reinforced and justified a mistakenly bearish view of world markets that seems to have persisted during the recent bull phases in London and New York.

Anyone can make mistakes.

After the initial shock, analysts were prepared to take a particularly charitable view of those who have proved so right in the past, most spectacularly over the anticipatory profits and actual losses from Big Bang.

Typically, Lord Rothschild has sugared the pill with some more financial engineering of his own, hiving off rather more of JRH than the chastened BAT saw any need to do. In the process, the name of Rothschild will disappear again from the list of quoted companies.

Half of the £500 million of assets will go into another Bishopsgate unit trust, where it will join two other converted investment trusts to enjoy a kinder tax regime. Under new rules, Mr Taube will still be able to indulge his favour of the more sophisticated investment tools.

The remaining St James's Place Capital will be even more an investment manager, dealer and seeker of special situations. At half the size, it could be that much easier to achieve asset performance, provided that the loss of touch and change of City climate prove temporary.

THIS year's spate of merger references for investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) continues unabated.

The referral of the wet shaving products market yesterday followed a double announcement on Wednesday when in the morning Tate & Lyle's proposed bid for Berisford International was sent for referral, to be followed in the afternoon by another, Glynwed International's agreed merger with Alumasc, best known for its beer kegs.

Even counting as singles some multiple referrals which involve one company, there have already been 14 merger investigations so far this year which is clearly bound to break records. There were only 14 in the whole of last year and 11 the year before.

Clearly this reflects the merger boom of the last three years or so. But are we also seeing the emergence of a sharper competition policy which refers any merger that raises a glimmer of doubt?

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, seems to be digging assiduously on the merger trail into more niche areas than in the past, from steel castings to sub-regional bus services. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, who alone has the power to refer mergers, has for his part been quick to take up Sir Gordon's advice on referral when offered.

Mr John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, has been emphasising for some time that the government is committed to a strong competition policy, underlining that the preservation of competition is the focus of monopoly and merger policy.

The department's thinking has appeared to reflect a special concern for smaller and medium companies in sectors where a merger may create a large market share.

The latest referral is not a minnow. It concerns what Sir Gordon considers effectively to be a merging of the razor interests of America's Gillette and Wilkinson Sword which together in the British wet shaving market account for about 80 per cent share.

But it is a complicated deal

## Referral rash signals no change in OFT policy



Pondering the next move: Sir Gordon Borrie

with Gillette having a minority non-voting stake and acting as a creditor to Swedish Match of the Netherlands whose assets will include the Wilkinson Sword razors and razor blade operations. It may be the MMC will decide it is not a merger as such. Hence Sir Gordon's own call to the MMC for a monopoly investigation into the wet shaving market focused on the effect of the Gillette interests in Swedish Match.

It is only in the European Community and the US where

Gillette has attempted this arm's length arrangement. In the rest of the world Gillette is simply taking over Wilkinson Sword razor interests.

So this time the reference probably deserves applause. But a minor aspect of it has a bearing on the way Office of Fair Trade thinking stands on what constitutes a sector where market shares should be judged.

The Gillette investigation is of the wet-shave market only with electric shavers left out. The OFT tries to define

sectors by asking what products offer positive substitutes and thus direct competition. Perhaps electric shavers — long a smaller and stable market — can in this case reasonably be excluded.

The Glynwed International reference is more puzzling. It was made because competition questions were raised about the metal rainwater fittings market. Glynwed makes cast iron gutters and downpipes, largely a replacement market, while Alumasc turns out aluminium rainwater fittings, specialising in bespoke goods to an architect's specifications.

Together Glynwed and Alumasc account for possibly 48 per cent of the metal rainwater fittings market. But taking the rainwater fittings market as a whole, dominated as it is by plastics, Glynwed says it would be surprised if it and Alumasc together account for as much as 10 per cent of the total market.

There are those at the OFT willing to agree that striking some sector distinctions does mean choosing from different shades of grey because there are too few black-and-white situations to be found. However, making a distinction between these sectors of the rainwater fittings market seems to be nearer to getting lost in a grey fog.

What both the OFT and the MMC maintain is that there is no change of competition policies. The spate of referrals has meanwhile increased the workload at the MMC.

That should ease after September when bigger mergers will be dealt with in Brussels. These being deals producing a combined turnover of at least £5 billion (about £3.7 billion). If two thirds of a merger's operations are in one EC country, it will remain a domestic matter.

The OFT does not see the new regime relieving it much in assessing if mergers should go for investigation. One suggestion is that about 10 to 15 big mergers will be go to Brussels out of the 400 to 500 assessments which made annually by the OFT.

Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

## TEMPUS

## Johnson Matthey back on tack

DAVID DAVIES, the new broom at metals group Johnson Matthey, is sweeping squeaky clean to judge from the £67.3 million of restructuring costs taken in the accounts to end March. Eugene Anderson, former chief executive, certainly knocked the balance sheet into shape — even after the provisions gearing is no more than 11 per cent. But Mr Davies has followed through to deal with some problems at the operational level, which judging by their size, could perhaps have been tackled sooner.

Given that two divisions catalytic systems, plus colours and printing, were hit by sharp downturns in their biggest markets, operating profits fared well to drop by £4.7 million to £62.9 million. But Mr Davies is charging £14 million of exceptional items to bring costs in line with the growth of the business. Mainly for this reason, pre-tax profits fell £16.2 million to £48.2 million. The deepest cutting came below the line with £53.3 million of extraordinary costs, mostly due to the severe scaling down of the refining and other operations at Brimsdown, North London, leading to attributable losses of £22.2 million against profits of £64.2 million.

LIG's shares almost quadrupled in the 18 months immediately following the first bout of publicity on Aids,

but it has not all been plain sailing since then.

Problems in the US have now been sorted out, and the business turned in a £4.5 million profit last year, up from a £100,000 loss. Europe saw profits fall from £19.3 million to £18.7 million last year. The British market was strong, with profits of £22 million, up from £17.9 million.

LIG is expected to produce earnings growth of 12 per cent to 15 per cent a year in the foreseeable future. Gearing is at about 100 per cent, but half of that represents cheap borrowing in the form of a convertible Eurobond, and interest cover is a healthy 5.5 times.

The shares, at 236p, up 7p, are on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 11 times, assuming pre-tax profits of £42 million. They have risen by almost 20p in the past ten days and are unlikely to soar in the near future, but should be steady performers in the long term.

## VSEL

THE market was pleasantly surprised when the VSEL Consortium revealed a 79 per cent advance in final pre-tax profits to £30.6 million, on turnover ahead by 15 per cent to £535.8 million.

The previous year's figures

were affected by the estimated £8 million cost of the 12 week strike at Barrow. But underlying profit growth was better than expected at about 20 per cent and VSEL has recouped lost production, qualifying for further stage payments.

Operating margins improved from 5 per cent to 7 per cent, and VSEL is aiming for 10 per cent this year. Return on capital employed climbed from 4.9 per cent to 8.2 per cent.

VSEL's order book stands at £3.1 billion, with Trident accounting for 52 per cent of this. There was exceptional debt of £2.75 million.

Earnings per share jumped to 79.9p (44.1p), and the company's confidence was expressed by an improved final dividend of 15.5p (8p), making 20p (11p) the for year.

County NatWest has upgraded its forecast to £38.5 million for the current year with earnings of 89p, giving a prospective multiple of 4.3 and a yield of 8.4.

The shares look cheap. But future success hinges on a fourth Trident order, which Labour will not offer. This order would provide work through to the year 2000. Without it, VSEL needs a rapid build-up of its other activities. If the Trident order materialises, shares are a snip.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Unlucky for some

TERRY Connor, joint head of market-making at Robert Fleming Securities, has resigned from the firm, after its decision on Monday to withdraw from UK equity market-making in all stocks except its 30 or so corporate clients. He was a director of the firm. Connor, aged 51, joined Fleming's 18 months ago from Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, a firm he left before it, too, withdrew from the UK market. Prior to that Connor worked for County NatWest WoodMac, having gone on board when County acquired Bisgood Bishop, the smaller companies specialist. His departure brings the number of job losses at Fleming's this week to 13. "It has all been very amicable," says Chris Munro, director of UK and continental securities at Fleming's. "He is going off to have a holiday and a good think about what he wants to do next." Bob Wade, Connor's colleague and also hitherto joint head of market-making, is still with the firm. John Foster, Wade's brother-in-law, has been appointed head of its remaining UK equity market-making operation and Barry Marks continues as head of continental European division.

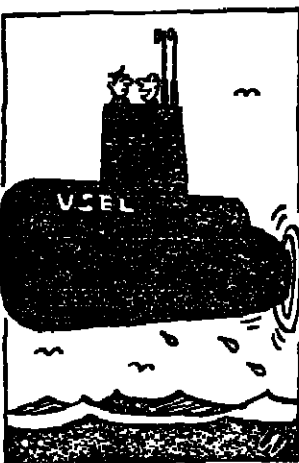
### Exchange victory

THE Stock Exchange once again romped home to victory — by seven goals to six — at Guard's Polo Club in Windsor

yesterday, when it beat a team from Lloyd's of London in the annual Courts-sponsored polo tournament. Nearly 500 City folk, some even daring to ditch their pin-stripes for blazers, flocked to Windsor Great Park to cheer on the winning team, which has only lost to Lloyd's once in the past five years. The Prince of Wales — who, as usual, led the Lloyd's team — was clearly no match for Harold Hipwood, who scored most of the goals for the Stock Exchange side. The exchange team was led by Victor Law of ANZ, the Australian merchant bank.

### On the wrong foot

MERCHANT bankers and stockbrokers at County NatWest WoodMac know only too well that anything other than black shoes are taboo once you step inside the



"Good news — we are up 79 per cent."

Square Mile. They were, therefore, understandably perturbed to discover this week that their clearing bank parent had considerably provided shoe polish pads in all the gentlemen's lavatories in County's new Bishopsgate offices — one of them black and ... one of them brown.

### Peppy Times

THE Times clearly reaches the parts that most other newspapers do not ... Last year, Kilik & Co, the private client stockbroker, placed an advert in this newspaper for its Personal Equity Plan, inviting readers to clip out a coupon in return for information. Kilik has just had one such coupon returned, albeit a little late, from a Mischin Denis of the Estonian Republic. The coupon was posted last September. Although the information has now been despatched, as a non-resident of the UK Mr Denis will not, unfortunately, be able to take advantage of the tax breaks offered by Peps.

### Merry-go-round

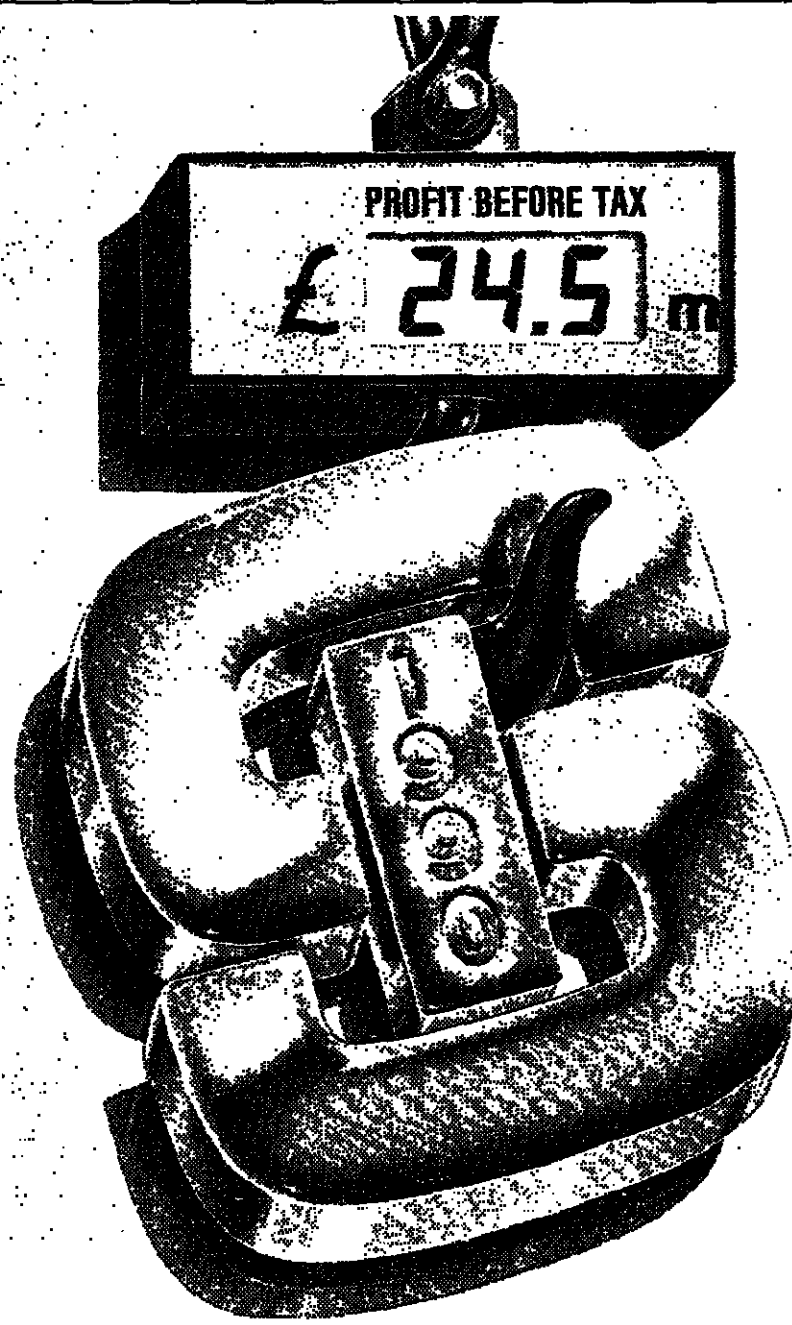
SWINGS and roundabouts ... Smith New Court, which has just recruited the prized leisure team from Kicat & Aitken, has lost Kimlan Cook, its retail analyst, and Fiona Short, specialist retail saleswoman, to County NatWest. The two women, who previously worked together at Kleinwort Benson, will be strengthening the team led by John Richards, who has consistently been voted the

top analyst in the sector and is also the head of research at County. "These appointments reconfirm our commitment to the sector following a year of uncertainty for retailers," Richards says. "In a research note we have changed our sector recommendation from short term negative to neutral — for the first time since August 1988."

### Straubs move

ONE of the most popular and well-connected fund managers in the Square Mile, Willie van Straubenzee, is leaving Morgan Grenfell to join, with effect from Monday, J O Hambro Investment Management, the private client division of Jocelyn Hambro's breakaway outfit, which also owns the corporate finance business Hambro Magan. Van Straubenzee, an Old Harrovian, who is 38 this month, has been with Morgan Grenfell for 12 years, most recently managing its pension funds. At J O Hambro he will join a team of four fund managers, responsible for £110 million between them. But John Anderson, the director, says "Straubs" arrival does not herald a move into the pension fund market. As befits a man of his upbringing he will instead be helping to expand the niche the firm has established in the more exclusive end of the private client market. Only individuals with a minimum of £250,000 to invest will even be considered as clients.

Carol Leonard



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- Total dividend up 11.8% to 7.6p

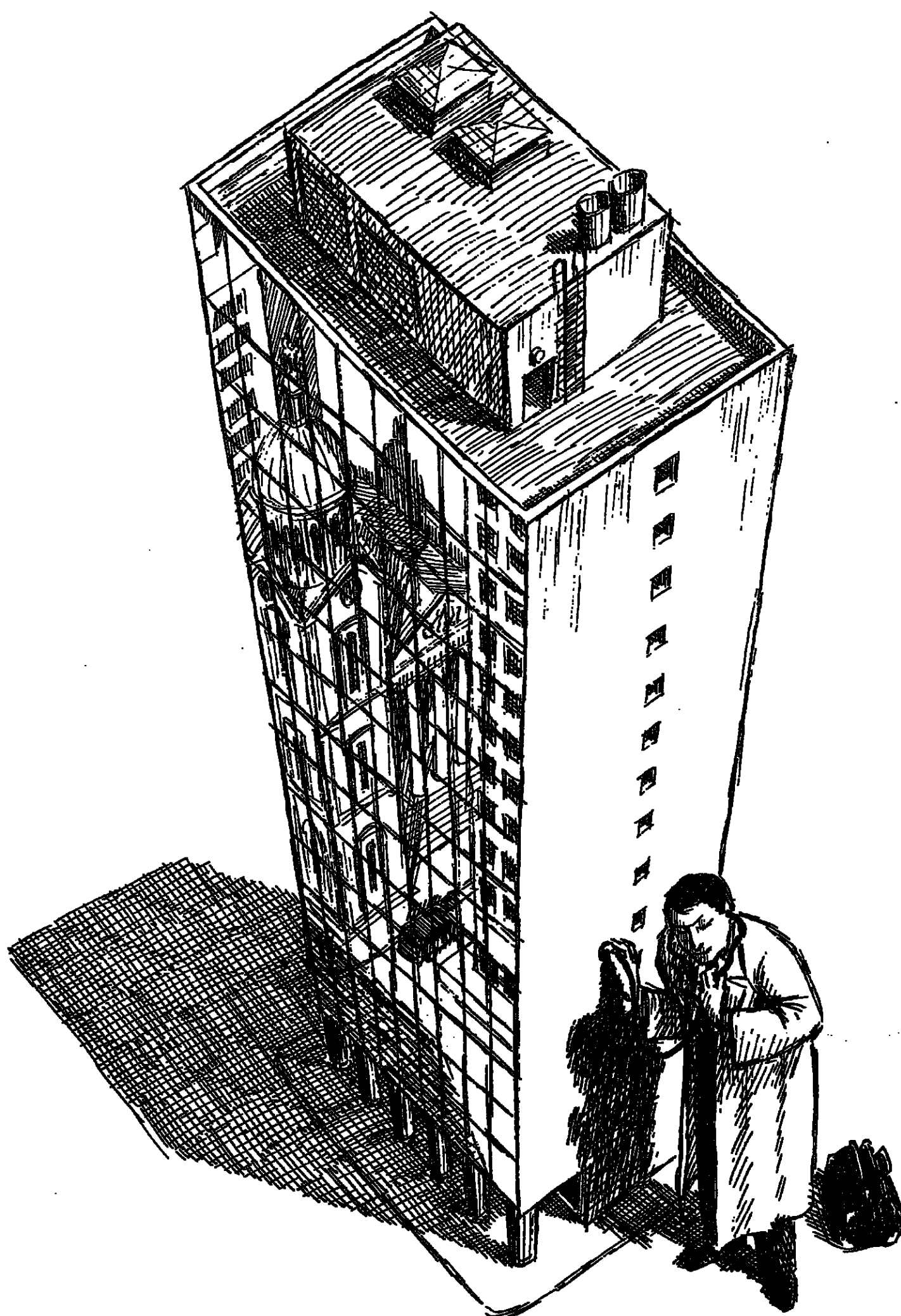
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## Chairman replies

From Sir Gordon...  
Sir, May I, through  
respond to a number  
made in Mr Potts'  
in The Times (June...  
1. Mr Potts comp  
high costs of sell  
under the Finance  
Act and sets them  
amounts lost by t  
public through fin  
previous decade.  
speak for Fimbra  
Intermediaries, Ma  
Brokers Regulation  
ation. Our own  
under 20 million  
may help to sav  
perspective to sav  
2,000 aspirant firm  
denied membership  
individuals provi  
information. We  
applications. Over  
have been suspens  
stricted for not m  
the standards we  
Who would be hap  
market in which t  
had not been rem  
2. I can sympathise  
Potts' sentence on  
Book. That is why  
re-writer. But there  
in which the Fin  
vices Act, running  
300 pages, can be  
to our members  
which is other than  
To suggest that Fir  
should judge what  
bers have always  
best interests of th  
would not be just  
but wholly unacce  
Parliament to dr  
to the bulk of our  
ship.

3. Mr Potts c  
"routine" complai  
on the grounds th  
not unreasonably

## Tell share

From Mrs A. G...  
Sir, I have just re  
newspapers, that  
in which I invest  
has just gone bust  
in fact.

Whilst I appreciate  
company going into  
liquidation has a  
funds to spend on  
would it not be an  
ment, if company  
changed - so that  
ers should be inform  
demise of their  
hopes, before the  
public?

Perhaps by use of  
letter?

Those suffering th

## Textile indu: seeks fairer

From the executi  
of the Apparel A  
Textiles Alliance

Sir, The British  
Confederation of  
generous with t  
money to recommen  
pon, June 7) direct  
be, to help UK app  
and textile  
adjust to the phas  
import quotas.

Let me make it cl  
even, that the indu  
has made no such re  
objective is to obtai  
set of rules and disc  
world textile and  
trade, which will  
industry's com  
strengths to be full  
and eliminate tradi  
tions. The prospect  
out the quotas depen  
aim being met in th  
GATT negotiations. T  
the Multi Fibre Arr  
depends largely on  
countries which b  
Community for imp  
its provisions are th  
prepared to contrib  
increased fairness  
trade.

Scrapping the MFA  
securing increased s  
against anti-competi  
tices in internation  
would certainly lea  
losses higher than t  
imposed by the Briti  
ers' Confederation.

Whether the be  
consumers hypothe  
the confederation's  
would ever, in the  
see the light of day  
on which, as always  
express a large me  
healthy scepticism.

Yours faithfully,  
LA. NIGHTINGALE  
Swallow Place  
Oxford Circus  
London

## Action

From Mr Stewart O'E...  
Sir, Coloroll joins a  
growing number of co  
that have fallen prey  
conditions.

Your article of June  
out that it is unlik  
private shareholders  
myself will receive an  
from the receivership  
company.

It seems to me  
British shareholder  
posed to accept this w  
whereas our America  
corporate would have  
started an action ag  
existing directors.  
Isn't it about time



## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Chairman of Fimbra replies to criticism

From Sir Gordon Downey  
Sir, May 1, through you, respond to a number of points made in Mr Potts' open letter in *The Times* (June 13).

1. Mr Potts complains of the high costs of self-regulation under the Financial Services Act and sets them against the amounts lost by the general public through fraud in the previous decade. I can only speak for Fimbra (Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association). Our own costs are under £9 million a year. It may help to put these in perspective to say that some 3,000 aspirant firms have been denied membership and 1,500 individuals provided false information with their applications. Over 165 firms have been suspended or restricted for not maintaining the standards we required. Who would be happy with a market in which these risks had not been removed?

2. I can sympathise with Mr Potts' strictures on the Rule Book. That is why it is being re-written. But there is no way in which the *Financial Services Act*, running to nearly 300 pages, can be interpreted to our members in a form which is other than complex. To suggest that Fimbra alone should judge whether members have always acted in the best interests of their clients would not be just impractical but wholly unacceptable to Parliament, to investors and to the bulk of our membership.

3. Mr Potts objects to "routine" compliance visits on the grounds that they will not unearth fraud. But that is

to misunderstand the main purpose of the visits. They are a major source for identifying deficiencies in standards of service offered by members. They will also test procedures designed to reduce the risk of dishonest practices. But they are not fraud investigations as such. Of course, if we have reason to suspect dishonesty, our enquiries are more searching. But if we wait for complaints, this may often be too late.

4. I cannot agree that we should not act against responsible newspapers. Misleading statements can be very damaging to the credibility of self-regulation and the industry if they are not corrected — witness the letter from Fimbra's chief executive set alongside that of Mr Potts in *The Times*.

5. The present system of self-regulation was designed to promote a healthy and competitive market place where the risk of fraud and dishonesty could be kept to a minimum. This, of course, does not remove responsibility from investors to decide how they can prudently invest their funds. There can never be a guarantee that regulation will keep the industry 100 per cent trouble free. But I submit that in the two years since the *Financial Services Act* came into existence, Fimbra has made great strides for investor protection.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON DOWNEY, KCB,  
Chairman,  
Fimbra,  
Hertsmere House,  
Hertsmere Road,  
E14.

## Real problem lies within existing framework

From Mr Nicholas Deeming

Sir, Your article of 12th June 1990 — *Fimbra turns to the lawyers* — and commenting on the collapse of the investment firm Dunsdale Securities does not address the real problem which exists within the regulatory framework set up under the *Financial Services Act*.

You state in words that it is apparently impossible to monitor each and every investment business but that is an erroneous conclusion and far from the position which could be achieved with some sensible thinking by Fimbra and Lauro.

If a new approach is not adopted it will not be too long before another "Dunsdale" is discovered.

While professional indemnity insurance would undoubtedly benefit investors (whether it could be properly installed is another matter — witness the debacle within the Fimbra membership in its last attempt to introduce such a scheme) the root cause of the problem is the failure by the regulators to properly inspect the transactions that a regulated investment firm actually processes.

It is not sufficient merely to carry out a compliance inspection, no matter how good that inspection is, if it does not embrace a thorough investigation of the every day financial

transactions that take place in an investment business.

Money going into an investment business must have a transaction record even if it is destined for a bank account in Switzerland!

I imagine Fimbra will not be too keen to take on such a proposal (lack of resources and paucity of quality personnel may inhibit them in this respect) but to overcome that hurdle the onus should be put onto the member firms themselves.

Member firms should be obliged to produce through their auditors an audit report which follows a clear audit trail, laid down by the regulators, testing a sample of financial transactions and as an addition to the annual audited accounts.

The same approach of transaction auditing should be applied to appointed representative firms.

It is incorrect to think that money invested through a representative is safe because the principal — the life company — is behind the transaction.

Money invested pre "A" Day (April 29th 1988) is outside the ambit of any protection under the FSA and additionally if the representative is carrying on business which is not authorised by the life company, (even

after the FSA has come into force), then there is a strong legal argument to say that such business is not covered by the Act and the life company as principal is not responsible for it.

This point is yet to be tested in the courts but I don't believe it will be too long before it is.

It cannot be beyond the wit of the regulators to impose a system of transaction auditing.

It may not eliminate problems completely but it will certainly be a very big step in the right direction and provide much greater investor protection.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS DEEMING,  
Solicitor,  
8 Broadcroft,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent,  
June 13.

## Throw away the rule book

From Mr Iain Polley

Sir, The suggestion in the Comment column on Tuesday June 12, that members of Fimbra use their membership as a marketing device is incorrect; certainly in as far as this member is concerned.

The only reason my letter paper bears the Fimbra logo is because Fimbra says it must do so if I am to continue to trade as an independent. I am sure that over 90 per cent of the population have no idea of the important role Fimbra plays in safeguarding their investments.

My clients are not impressed, nor do they get a warm glow of reassurance, when they see the Buyer's Guides and Terms of Business letters which Fimbra insists that I give them before I even say hello to them. My clients deal with me because they know me, or because I have been recommended to them. I deal with them on the basis that I wish to continue to deal with them until I retire. If I do

a good job, they will come back for more. If I don't, they will go elsewhere. That is the law of commerce. My being a member of Fimbra is of no significance to my client.

To the honest independent financial adviser, being a member of Fimbra is an expensive burden. Not just in paying the fees each year, but in the time and energy spent in ensuring compliance with the 200-page rule book mentioned in Peter Potts' open letter to Sir Gordon Downey.

To the dishonest financial adviser, Fimbra is irrelevant, as is the criminal law, for that matter, since the fear of a goal sentence, or of being struck off by Fimbra is not a deterrent.

Fimbra should throw away its rule book, and stop wasting our time and money on compliance visits. It should concentrate on investigating complaints from the public.

Yours faithfully,  
IAIN POLLEY, Lethbridge Securities, 4 Belvedere Road, Taunton, Somerset.

## What hope is there left for the regulated or the investor?

From Mr Christopher Tate

Sir, What perfect juxtaposition on your business pages today! Peter Potts' open letter to the chairman of Fimbra made some fair points, and tweaked that SRO's tail about its occasionally Brechtian rule book.

And then, oh happy symmetry, to have R. F. O'Brien's completely incomprehensible "letter" alongside it! What does "implicitly" mean? Indeed, what does the whole last paragraph mean? On the basis of that semantic conundrum is there really any hope for either

the regulated or the investor?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER TATE  
Director,  
McDonough Associates,  
30 Queen Anne's Gate,  
London  
SW1,  
June 13.

## Bradstock surges 33% to £4.01m at half-way

BY PHILIP FANGALOS

STRONG growth in direct and reinsurance business helped pre-tax profits at Bradstock Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, advance by 33 per cent to £4.01 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover was ahead by 27 per cent to £9.81 million, with about 60 per cent from reinsurance. The company has benefited from higher rates from its marine, London Market Excess of Loss and aviation reinsurance business, with aviation accounting for about 25 per cent of Bradstock's brokerage.

The interim dividend is improved to 2.5p, against 2.0p last time. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 8.5p.

Investment income climbed from £1.19 million to £1.70 million. However, minority interests increased from £84,000 to £356,000.

The company said that both the direct and reinsurance sides of its business have shown good growth, with particularly strong progress in reinsurance brokerage. The company said that it remains confident about the prospects for this financial year.

Julianne Jessup at Barclays de Zoete Wedd has upgraded her final pre-tax profit forecast to £7.7 million. The shares firmed by 5p to 265p.

## Tell shareholders before press

From Mrs A. Geddes

Sir, I have just read in the newspapers, that a company in which I invested £10,000 has just gone bust (Union Heritage).

Whilst I appreciate that a company going into voluntary liquidation has virtually no funds to spend on anything — would it not be an improvement, if company law was changed — so that shareholders should be informed of the demise of their funds and hopes, before the general public?

Perhaps by use of a circular letter?

Those suffering the loss of a

"dear" one, in say, an accident, are informed, if possible, before the news is made public.

I know this is not always possible — but with funds in a company, "dear" ones indeed, would it not be polite and proper to inform us personally — before the press?

So often, shareholders are mere common fodder for "egos" on the board.

The "cuckold," the "last to know."

Yours faithfully,  
MRS A GEDDES,  
59e Harcourt Terrace,  
SW10.  
June 10.

## Textile industry seeks fairer rules

From the executive chairman of the Apparel, Knitting & Textiles Alliance

Sir, The British Importers' Confederation is extremely generous with taxpayers' money in recommending (report, June 7) direct aid, if need be, to help UK apparel, knitting and textile producers adjust to the phasing out of import quotas.

Let me make it clear, however, that the industry itself has made no such request. Our objective is to obtain a fairer set of rules and disciplines in world textile and clothing trade, which will allow our industry's competitive strengths to be fully exercised and eliminate trading distortions. The prospect of phasing out the quotas depends on this aim being met in the current GATT negotiations. The fate of the Multi Fibre Arrangement depends largely on whether countries which berate the Community for implementing its provisions are themselves prepared to contribute to increased fairness in world trade.

Scrapping the MFA without securing increased safeguards against anti-competitive practices in international trade would certainly lead to job losses higher than those estimated by the British Importers' Confederation.

Whether the benefits to consumers hypothesised in the confederation's report would ever, in the real world, see the light of day is an issue on which, as always, I can only express a large measure of healthy scepticism.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A. NIGHTINGALE  
Swallow Place  
Oxford Circus  
London

## Unearned income or savings

From Mr Maurice Cooke

Sir, One item in Labour's taxation plans has received little discussion — the proposal to revive Jenkins' investment surcharge.

Politically this issue turns on the choice of words. Describe dividends and interest as "unearned income" and they conflict with social justice, they produce parasites on other people's labours. Describe them as "savings" and they check the consumer boom and the drawing in of imports which upset the balance of payments. Unearned income ought to be taxed, savings favoured.

Taxation of investment income is misunderstood: it is generally assumed that taxation at 50 per cent leaves the owner with 50 per cent, but this ignores inflation. £1,000 at 10 per cent produces £100 per annum — tax at 50 per cent removes one half, inflation at 5 per cent removes the other. The sensible response is to spend the capital before the state and inflation take it away, hence the foreign holidays, the Porsches and yachts. Under Labour, investment will be managed exclusively by politicians; Eastern Europe demonstrates the results of this.

Japan encourages saving, Britain penalises it; which has the healthier economy?

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE COOKE,  
8 Menai View Terrace,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd.  
June 6.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

## Action group at Coloroll

From Mr Stewart O'Brien  
Sir, Coloroll joins an ever-growing number of companies that have fallen prey to market conditions.

Your article of June 8 points out that it is unlikely that private shareholders such as myself will receive any return from the receivership of the company.

It seems to me that the British shareholder is supposed to accept this with grace whereas our American counterparts would have already started an action against the existing directors.

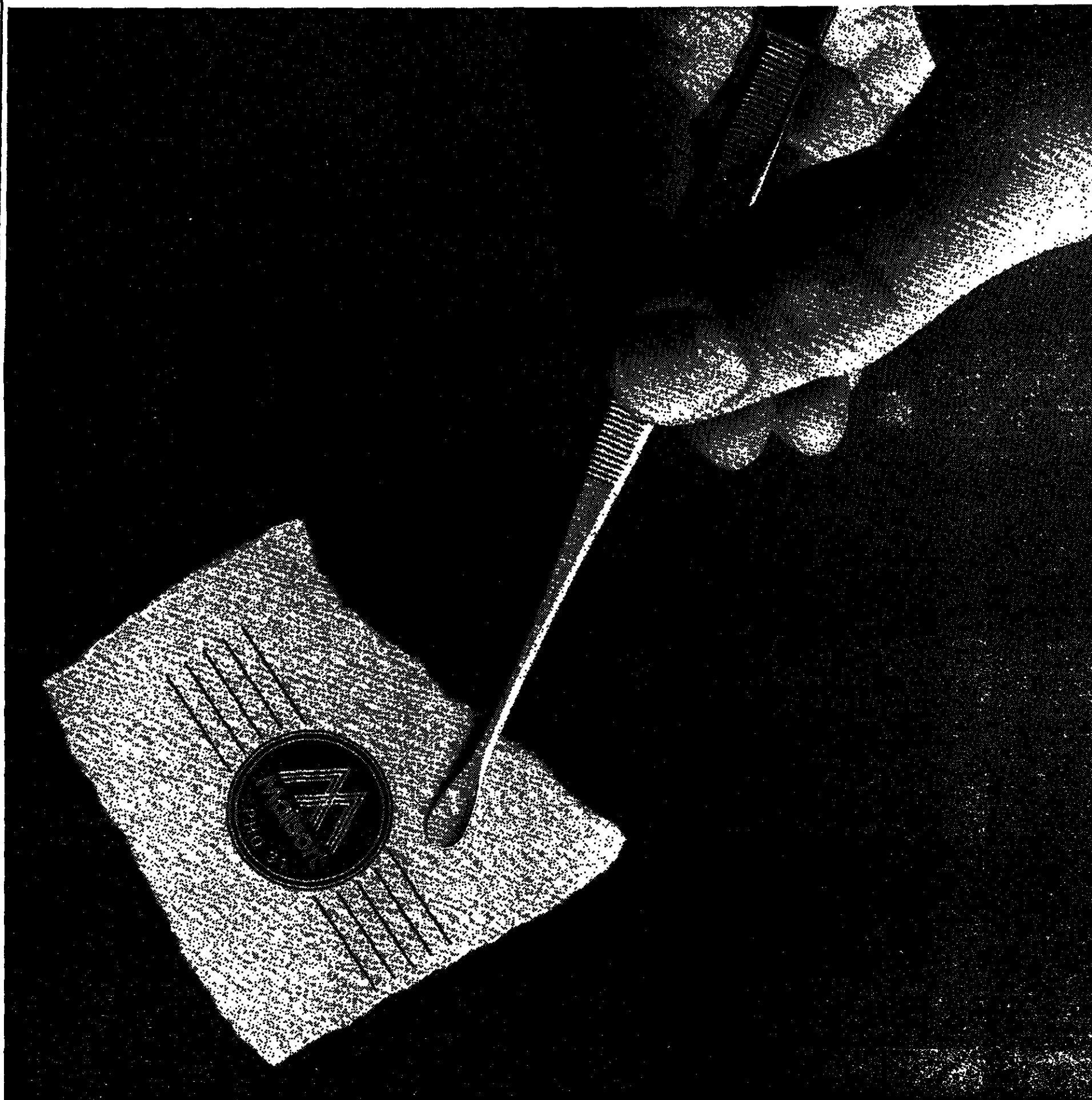
Isn't it about time that the

directors were held accountable for their actions?

Since it seems clear to me that we should not let the directors walk clear from this debacle I intend to form a shareholder action group. (Similar to that proposed by a certain B&C shareholder).

I would be interested to hear from parties who feel similarly aggrieved.

Yours faithfully,  
STEWART O'BRIEN,  
51 St Peters Close,  
Newbury Park,  
Ilford,  
Essex.  
June 8.



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Business

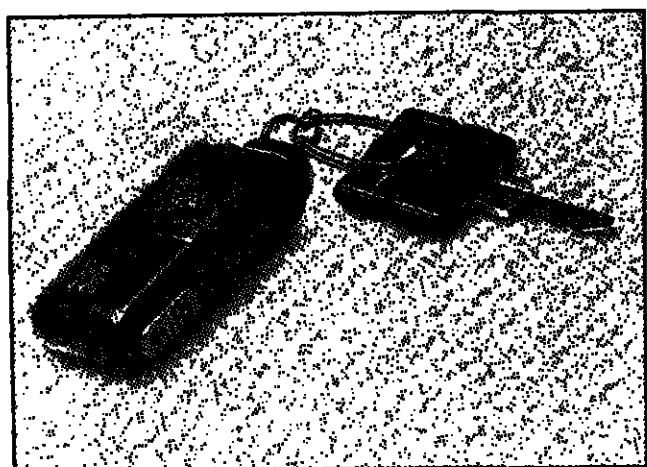


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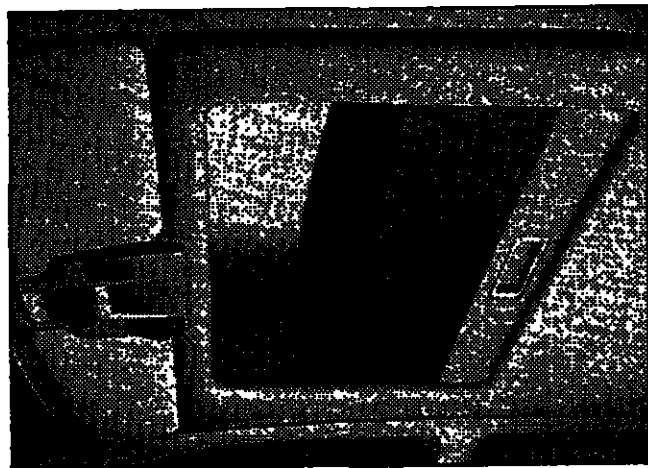
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ADDRESS (PRIVATE/BUSINESS) \_\_\_\_\_

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711



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THE full cost of Y...  
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Paul Coker, deputy...  
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S&A Lesma was a...  
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The following are the...  
ended 31st March, 1990

Profit and Loss Account

Turnover

Profit before taxation and...  
extraordinary items

Taxation

Profit before extraordinary...  
extraordinary items

Profit attributable to share...

Dividends:

Interim - 0.875p (1989)

Proposed final - 1.00p

Amount set aside to reserve

Earnings per share of 25p

Profits have been affected...  
out the year, the rising...  
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## Lovell down £1.5m as it counts cost of failed Higgs bid

By MATTHEW BOND

THE full cost of YJ Lovell's unsuccessful bid for Higgs & Hill, a rival contractor, has been taken at the half way stage. Extraordinary items associated with the bid have turned a pre-tax profit of £8.4 million into an attributable loss of £1.5 million.

Lovell placed its 10 per cent stake in Higgs & Hill last month, but Anthony Hitchens, chairman, said the decision to take the £3.5 million loss realised on the disposal into the accounts for the six months to March allows the group to put the bid for Lovell completely behind it.

A further £2.5 million of costs associated with the bid and the £1 million cost of closing the unprofitable Lovell Homes (London) boosted total extraordinary items to £7 million. Despite the losses, Lovell is increasing its interim dividend 10 per cent to 2.2p.

Lovell's £162 million bid for Higgs & Hill lapsed in January, with Lovell speaking for only 35 per cent. At the time the bid was launched Lovell accompanied its terms

with a profit forecast indicating a 35 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £33 million for the year to September. That forecast was met.

But the subsequent few months have proved very different. At £8.4 million, pre-tax profits are 17 per cent below the £10.1 million made in the same period in 1989.

"Conditions have got worse, far worse, since the time of the bid," said Mr Hitchens, who believes the results are satisfactory given the slump in private housing sales and what he describes as "the crash" in commercial development.

"The decline in profits from commercial property development has been sharper than we expected."

"While I naturally regret that we were unable to put two excellent businesses together, you could argue that it has proved fortunate that we didn't press on to pay the higher price for Higgs & Hill that the market was demanding," said Mr Hitchens.

For the first time Lovell has

broken down its profit by division. This reveals that residential development contributed 60 per cent of last year's £33 million of pre-tax profits. In the latest six-month period that figure rose to 62 per cent as commercial property profits collapsed.

Residential pre-tax profits at the interim stage were £5.2 million, down just 11 per cent on 1989. The number of private housing sales declined from 560 to 429, but public sector — or partnership — housing sales increased from 715 to 806 units.

But pre-tax profits from commercial developments dropped from £6.2 million in 1989 to just £170,000 in the first half of this year. Profits from contracting rose by 86 per cent to £3 million.

The group has no plans to expand its contracting side through large scale acquisitions.

Mr Hitchens said: "Lovell's greatest strength has been, and always will be, in being a first class, widely diversified residential developer."

## Boss to lift production



Sir Neville: £40m expansion plan will double workforce at Boss's Bedfordshire plant

BOSS, the biggest British-owned lift truck maker and the third largest in Europe, is planning a £40 million investment to expand its plant at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire. This would add 500 jobs over the next five years and double the size of the present workforce (Derek Harris writes).

Boss, formerly Lancer Boss, is among the top dozen makers among more than 200 worldwide, but as mergers have progressively brought more dominance by the bigger players the British company has set its sights on being well among the world's top ten.

Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw, chairman, who is also chief executive and a principal shareholder of the company which he founded in 1957, has built a young management team to keep Boss in the forefront of design.

He said: "We have got our products and our management so now we need the facilities to get the volume up."

The new, privately-funded manufacturing plant is intended to keep lift truck production in Britain which might otherwise have gone abroad where Boss also has modern manufacturing facilities in West Germany and Spain. The expanded Leighton Buzzard plant would be capable of an annual £250 million in lift truck output by the mid-1990s.

The proposed factory will be set in a new civic park which will be donated to the town, helping smooth the way for the scheme which would involve the use of some green belt land for which planning permission will be sought.

Sir Neville said: "Unlike many big service sector developments around the country this ambitious plan will be one of the few self-funded manufacturing centres to be constructed in the near future."

It would be a major element in Boss's future growth and would contribute to both the local and national economy, he said.

He wants the factory to be a centre of manufacturing excellence attracting international visitors to see trucks being made in a model facility. The Boss policy of investing profits back into the business would allow the company with the new facility to centralise and streamline manufacturing.

Boss signalled its dedication to high-grade factory premises in April when it opened a £10 million (£3.46 million) plant in West Germany.

Priorities to help stay in the big league also include introducing new methods to reduce unit costs and improve product quality.

## Profits at Darby Group static in 'difficult' trading

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DARBY Group, the USM specialist glass manufacturer, reports static pre-tax profits of £1.96 million in the year to end-February, against £1.95 million last time.

Michael Darby, the chairman, said that traditional markets were depressed with the situation worsening as the year went on. He said high interest rates resulted in reduced sales of window and door products to the building sector.

However, progress in the export market has been maintained.

Group turnover climbed by 16.7 per cent to £10.8 million, with exports accounting for about 10 per cent of output.

Mr Darby said while general trading conditions remained difficult, particularly in the construction industry, the group had been successful in finding new markets for its toughened glass products, and turnover showed an upward trend.

Earnings per share slip from 10.28p to 9.77p. There is an improved final dividend of 2.1p, making a total of 3.3p for the year (1.25p).

The company said it plans

to continue concentrating on high margin niche markets and more capital investment is planned.

Darby also announced plans to acquire control of Société Générale de Miroiterie-Enveroy from Boussais SA, which is the wholly-owned French glass-making subsidiary of American-based PPG Industries.

Darby will acquire SGME's Lille glass fabricating plant for £14 million (£1.44 million).

Darby and Boussais will form a new company to make tempered flat and bent glass and insulating glass, with Darby owning 70 per cent. The new company is expected to assume operation of the Lille plant by January 1991, after new glass testing equipment is installed.

SGME made a pre-tax loss of about £158,000 in the year to end-December, with assets about £671,000.

The group's interest receipts rose from £26,000 to £159,000, although after the acquisition the company will have a maximum gearing of about 45 to 50 per cent. Darby shares were unchanged at 103p.

## Neotronics ahead 34% to £1.25m

By OUR CITY STAFF

NEOTRONICS Technology, the gas detection and analysis instrument maker, lifted pre-tax profits by 34 per cent to £1.25 million in the six months to end-March.

Group turnover grew by 26 per cent to £7.43 million. Earnings per share rose from 2.3p to 3.2p, and the interim dividend is improved to 0.8p, against 0.6p last time.

Paul Götley, the chairman, said the first six months benefited from a significant contribution from two major new products only at the end of the period, with this contribution expected to increase in the second half.

He said further new products have been launched. Mr Götley added that North American sales have continued to grow. He said the group order book has maintained its strength and prospects for the second half look favourable.

There was an exceptional provision of £128,000 relating to severance costs and restructuring. The shares firmed by 3p to 86p.

## Stronger dollar helps advance Scapa to £44.8m

By ANGELA MACKAY

SCAPA Group, the producer of paper-making equipment, increased pre-tax profits by 14 per cent from £39.2 million to £44.8 million for the year ended March 31, exactly in line with analysts' predictions.

After being on the wrong side of currency translations for several years, a stronger dollar helped to buoy the contribution from across the Atlantic, where Scapa derives about 40 per cent of its sales.

Turnover climbed 11.5 per cent to £284.2 million, with the bulk of the increase from North America.

Overall, about 63 per cent of profits are from offshore divisions.

The company is paying a final dividend of 3.58p, making a total of 5.01p for the full year, compared with 4.39p previously. Earnings per share grew 12.9 per cent, adjusted for a one-for-one capitalisation issue, to 16.6p.

Scapa strengthened its balance

sheet during the year, reducing gearing from 42 per cent to 30.2 per cent, and it increased interest cover to 8.9 times.

Shares in Scapa rose by a penny to 151p.

Earlier this year, Scapa paid £10.5 million for Just Rubber, the printing-roller company based in Gwent.

Bill Goodall, Scapa's chairman, said that the group would continue to seek acquisitions in addition to organic growth.

Last month, Scapa started building a factory in Austria to concentrate on a new range of materials for roll coverings for the paper industry.

Mr Goodall said that he was confident that the company's geographical spread would provide it with sufficient protection from currency and consumption cycles despite the downturn in economic activity that had occurred in the UK and Canada.

## Hong Kong jobless rate up at 1.8%

HONG Kong's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February to April was 1.8 per cent, the census and statistics department said.

The figure compares with 1.3 per cent for the three months to January 1990.

The department said an estimated 48,700 people were out of work in February-April this year, compared with 36,800 in the three months to the end of January and 40,500 in the corresponding period in 1989. It said that although there are signs that the labour market might have eased marginally, there is still no evidence of a trend.

## Suchard in £67m British buy

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

JACOBS Suchard, the Swiss chocolate manufacturer, has made a long-awaited move into the British market with the acquisition of an Oxfordshire-based industrial chocolate company for £57.5 million.

S&A Lesme, which makes bulk chocolate for cake, biscuits, ice cream and confectionery, has been put up for sale by Ranks Hovis McDougall (RHM), the bread, flower and grocery products group.

Paul Coker, deputy managing director of RHM, said S&A Lesme was a non-core business whose sale would lead to reduced borrowings of

about £20 million. For Suchard the acquisition marks a small step to increase its presence in Britain. Two years ago the company was involved in a takeover battle for Rowntree but lost out to Nestlé, its Swiss competitor.

After the acquisition S&A Lesme will continue to operate from Banbury, Oxfordshire. It will be integrated into van Houten, Suchard's trading division, which accounts for 11 per cent of Suchard's business.

Van Houten already owns industrial chocolate companies in West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, but with a turnover of £71

million S&A Lesme will become one of van Houten's principle companies in this sector.

Van Houten, formerly a continental chocolate manufacturer, now operates as a trader of green coffee, cocoa and cocoa products, which includes industrial chocolate.

Suchard promised to retain the management and staff at S&A Lesme, which made operating profits of £7.1 million in the year to September 2, 1989. Van Houten will pay £63.5 million, while RHM will retain some net assets, mainly cash, creditors and debtors, worth £4 million.

### ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 2,180	CU 1,517	Lloyds 2,074	Sears 4,288
Abbey Nat 1,519	Cookson 1,876	Lloyds Abb 2,216	Seagrove 438
Ad-Lyons 2,213	Courtauld 999	Lombard 1,818	Shell 4,810
Amrad 1,598	De Laury 745	Lucas 1,595	Sibco 37
ASDA 3,125	Dixons 2,179	Manpower 320	Slough 412
AB Foods 487	EOC 634	M&S 5,738	Smith & N 6,028
Angill 3,200	Enterprise 1,138	Metallgesellschaft 1,781	SK Beech 1,527
S&A 385	Ferranti 2,202	MB Group 1,029	Do Us 35
BET 3,687	Fisons 3,474	Mecsa 498	Smith WH 914
BTH 3,515	FD 1,787	MEPC 574	Smiths Ind 1,082
BAT 2,457	Han Acc 384	Midland 2,555	STC 2,143
Barclays 2,184	GEC 5,522	Nat West 4,237	Stan Chart 612
Bass 1,000	Glen 3,514	Nant 3,511	Stanley 2,254
Bauer 853	Globe Inv 787	NW Food 224	Sun Africa 1,705
Bergs Ind 1,127	Glynwed 357	PEO 819	Sun Life 8
BICC 301	Grawd 832	Peterson 478	T & N 319
Blue Circle 854	Grand Met 3,576	Pillington 3,773	Ti Group 500
BOC 1,828	GUS A 239	Polly Peak 6,324	Tarmac 3,851
Bocals 3,832	GRE 390	Prudential 2,822	Tate & Lyle 530
BP 722	H&C 2,017	Racal 12,159	Taylor Wood 138
Br Aero 3,168	Guinness 2,259	Racal Tele 1,058	TBS 4,070
Br Airways 2,600	Hamm A 173	Rk Hovis 1,104	Tesco 8,157
Br Comm 8,685	Hanson 7,462	Rank 487	Thames Wtr 2,327
Br Gas 6,885	Do Wts 479	RAC 823	Thorn EM 253
Br Land 1,075	H & C 1,294	Redland 1,294	Trafalgar 1,741
Br Petrol 7,207	Hawker 112	Reed 2,082	THF 2,541
Br Steel 5,573	Hilldown 1,989	Reuners 613	Unilever 375
Br Telecom 14,118	ICI 1,156	RHAC Sp 375	Unilever 3,475
Burnd 1,077	ICI 1,156	RITZ 2,028	United Bis 1,410
Burnham 579	Indocap 247	R-Royce 7,095	Unit News 1,221
Burns 14,761	Kingfisher 2,930	Rothmans B 1,180	Walcote 1,276
CBW 1,483	Lafarge 1,964	Royal Bank 1,582	Whitbread 2,098
Cadbury 1,144	Ladbroke 2,410	Safeway 2,055	Williams 1,441
Celcor 1,176	Land Sec 2,028	Safeway 2,055	Wills Fab 634
Carlton 2,517	Laporte 374	Sect & N 2,255	Wmpey G 454
Costs 115	LBS 730		

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MORGAN GRENFELL ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Burnside Mills, Kendal on Wednesday, 1st August, 1990, at 10.30 am.



## Sentence today on Wall St tax cheat

FROM JOHN DURIE  
IN NEW YORK

MARTIN Siegel, formerly one of the brightest stars on Wall Street, will be sentenced today for offences of tax evasion and breaching securities law, to which he pleaded guilty in February 1987.

Siegel was arrested on evidence from Ivan Boesky, the convicted fraudster, who last month testified that he paid Siegel \$800,000 for inside tips on takeover deals.

Siegel's own evidence led to one of the most embarrassing episodes in the New York District Attorney's crackdown on insider trading. In 1987, Robert Freeman, a Goldman Sachs trader, and Richard Wigton, a Kidder Peabody trader, were handcuffed and marched through their offices by federal agents.

Another Kidder trader, Timothy Taylor, was arrested at home. Last August the District Attorney's office said that it would not proceed with any charges against Mr Wigton and Mr Taylor.

Freeman was sentenced to four months' jail and fined \$1 million earlier this year after admitting one fraud count.

Siegel, who worked at Kidder at the time of his offences, later worked with Drexel Burnham Lambert and co-operated with the District Attorney.

Mr Boesky, who was released from jail in April, has since given evidence in the market manipulation case against his former friend, John Mulhern, the arbitrator.

The Mulhern case is continuing.

## Wales aims to increase Euro trade links

THE Welsh Development Agency is hosting a two-day forum to encourage European trade links in the build-up to the single market in 1992.

Hundreds of European businessmen and nearly 200 Welsh companies gathered at Cardiff Castle yesterday to take part in *EuroPartner'90*.

Dr Gwyn Jones, the development agency chairman, said: "Wales is being seen as a key region for the 1990s, and the great changes in the Welsh economy are now recognised throughout Europe."

Wales has recently attracted more than 20 per cent of all job-creating inward investment into Britain, although it has only 5 per cent of the population.

## Japan takes tougher stance to try to get its Soviet bills paid

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's struggle to restock store shelves in the Soviet Union and to modernise the country's factories faces a new hurdle with a decision by Japan to ban trade insurance for Soviet-bound exports because of Moscow's growing debts.

Many Japanese companies, including major steelmakers, have frozen exports to the Soviet Union recently, because of late trade payments. The new move will shrink Japan's shipments to the Soviet Union further.

Soviet payment delays to Japanese firms top \$250 million, equivalent to about 7 per cent of Tokyo's annual exports to Moscow. They account for about a quarter of the Soviet Union's total arrears to Western companies.

Japan's ministry of international trade has decided that enough is enough. It says that from now on, Japanese exporters must get a letter of credit from Soviet banks, guaranteeing payment and thus eliminating risk to the seller, before shipping goods to Moscow.

Last month the Japanese government doubled its trade insurance rates following a rush of claims from out of pocket Japanese exporters, who had been drumming their

fingers for months waiting for bills to be paid by Soviet importers.

Tokyo's response angered the Soviet authorities. But now Tokyo feels the prospect of Japanese firms receiving payment from Moscow is remote enough to warrant more drastic action.

With Japan having become the Soviet Union's third biggest trading partner after West Germany and Finland, a further slowdown in Tokyo's exports to the Soviet Union could send shivers through Moscow.

The most recent calculations by the Japan Association for Trade with the Soviet Union and Socialist Countries of Europe, a trade group for Japanese companies doing business with the Eastern bloc, show that Japan's exports to the Soviet Union fell by 14.2 per cent in the first four months of this year to \$937.73 million. Traders say the problem has worsened.

Although Japanese exporters are eager for their bills to be settled, they are also anxious to maintain links with Moscow, especially after seeing the new diplomatic backslapping between the Soviet Union and South Korea that has followed last week's meeting in San Francisco between Mr Gorbachev and President

Roh Tae Woo of Korea. Japanese firms do not like giving their Korean rivals new markets.

Some Japanese companies are wondering whether Moscow is testing their resolve to obey their government's directives by making overtures to South Korea.

Seoul has the ability, the financial muscle and, most importantly, the political will to help the Soviet Union by investing in new projects there, even if the projects do not pay.

Japan, by contrast, is politically reluctant to pour money into developing Soviet wastelands until Moscow returns four islands off northern Japan: rival ownership claims have prevented the two countries from signing a bilateral peace treaty since the second world war.

The Soviet Union would probably prefer Japanese cash and technology and trade. Soviet officials say they are ready to swap gold for hard currencies to clear their debts and their name.

But Moscow may be taking out an insurance policy with Seoul in case worsening credit problems persuade Japan and others among its trading partners to make a commercial retreat until the rubles begin to flow again.



John Phelan: confident changes will be accepted

## NYSE may widen market breaks in high volatility

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

THE New York Stock Exchange is about to impose an expanded series of market breaks in periods of high volatility after the release of a study into market changes and investor confidence.

The report, commissioned after last year's October 13 market slump, however, rejected calls for any large curbs on the use of program trading.

The report was prepared by a panel chaired by Roger Smith, the outgoing chairman of General Motors.

The findings will be considered by the New York Stock Exchange. John Phelan, the NYSE chairman, said he was confident the main recommendations would be accepted.

The coordinated circuit breakers will stop the market for 60 minutes after a movement of 100 points in the Dow Jones industrial average or 12 points in the Standard and Poor's 500 Index. The stop in New York trading will also close linked markets and trading in New York listed shares in other markets.

Other market breaks will happen if the Dow moves 200 points, which will close the market for 90 minutes, a 300-point move will close the market for 120 minutes, and a 400-point move will close the market for the same period.

In periods of high volatility, which are defined as moves of more than 100 points, the NYSE should lift its ban on

American companies buying back their own shares in the last 30 minutes of trading. This would mean a company could buy back its shares after a significant fall, which would increase market liquidity.

The report also recommended that American specialists who buy and sell shares on the NYSE should be allowed more flexibility in hedging their position on other markets. At present, specialists are restricted in buying futures contracts and other share derivatives for fear of market manipulation.

The NYSE and its members are also urged to make more effort in educating the public on new market tools such as program trading.

The report was divided on two controversial areas giving the Securities and Exchange Commission sole power over the stock market and market derivatives, and margin levels for futures trading.

The SEC has no power over the futures exchanges, which are governed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, but the American treasury has recently introduced legislation aimed at giving it sole power over all share trading and share derivatives trading.

Richard Breeden, SEC chairman, has also said margins on futures trading should be increased from the present 5 per cent cash payment to 20 per cent.

## Executive salaries

## Average annual pay increments jump to 10.7% in Square Mile

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE "going rate" for City pay rises has picked up to 10.7 per cent from 8.8 per cent at the end of last year, despite continued rationalisation and widespread redundancies in the financial services industry.

This is a key finding in the latest *City Salary Survey* by Jonathan Wren & Company, which, somewhat surprisingly, indicates that demand for new recruits remains strong.

A special study of women's pay, said to be the biggest of its kind ever undertaken, shows that men still outnumber women in all City jobs but the lowest salary group, that below £20,000. Above this, men hold 75 per cent of the positions. Beyond salaries of

£60,000, women are virtually excluded.

Over all salary classes, women take 43.7 per cent of jobs, but are better represented in the lowest categories which include employment areas involving large numbers.

Men and women diverge on salary levels in their mid-20s, moving wider apart with increased age. The survey, which analysed 3,000 City staff over the past 15 weeks, notes that for women the relationship between salary and age becomes weaker from the mid-30s. For men this gap does not emerge until the early 40s.

The majority of the top 10

women interviewed were investment bankers in the most innovative and risky sectors. Here, talent is rewarded on merit, but careers falter at an earlier age.

Women who achieve top positions appear to be better paid than men. Of executives earning over £50,000, women aged 35 earn 5.3 per cent more than men. However, there are 10 men for every woman at this level.

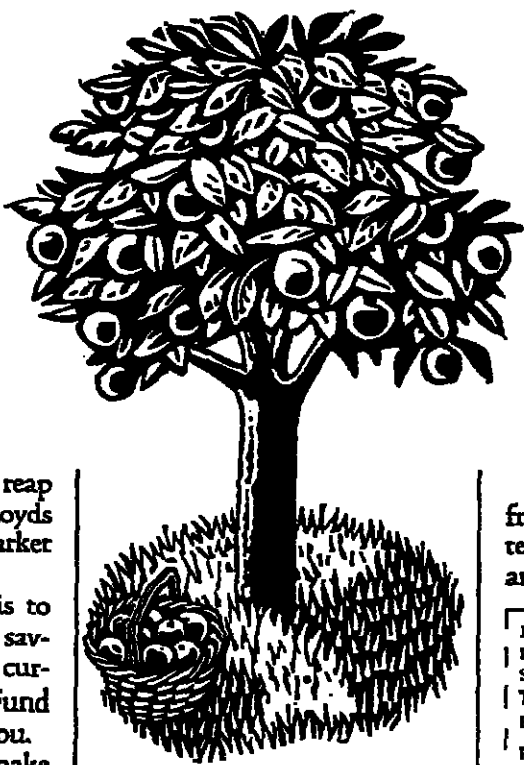
The survey concludes that, if women want to improve their pay relative to men, more women graduates will have to enter the City, become traders and executives, corporate financiers and fund managers. Traditional mar-

kets dominated by men, such as foreign exchange dealing and lending, will also have to be opened up.

The overall picture for both sexes shows the lowest pay increase in bond settlements, where salaries for new jobs have fallen by 11.5 per cent since last year. Securities settlements saw a modest rise of 3.4 per cent. VDU operators and accountants' clerks are meanwhile in demand, with respective salary gains of 16.2 per cent and 19.0 per cent.

The survey points to City earnings now rising in line with the rest of the economy, contrasting with the above-average growth seen in early years.

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## Wheway is ahead by 19%

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PRE-TAX profits at Wheway, the environmental controls and engineering products group, were ahead by 19 per cent to £3.51 million in the 26 weeks to end-March, on turnover up 22 per cent to £55.2 million.

Earnings per share slipped from 3.96p to 3.54p, with fully taxed earnings down 5 per cent to 3.34p. However, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.0p.

Operating profits from the environmental engineering division advanced by 63 per cent to £1.72 million. The clean air division improved its contribution to operating profits 95 per cent to £1.75 million. Operating profits from industrial and building products fell 41 per cent to £798,000. Interest payments climbed by 36 per cent to £947,000.

John McGowan, the chairman, said that although second half interest charges will be high, it is expected that overall second half pre-tax profit performance will be broadly in line with that achieved during 1989.

The shares lost 13p to finish at 82p.

## Staveley ahead 12.4% to £24m

By MATTHEW BOND

PRE-TAX profits at Staveley Industries, the salt mining and weighing equipment group, rose to £24.5 million in the year to March, an increase of 12.4 per cent.

Brian Kent, the chairman, expects most of the progress in profits for the current year to come from the \$35 million acquisition of Howe Richardson, a US-based industrial weighing group, the group made last month. It was paid for with the help of a one for four rights issue. "I do not see any reason to be dismal, but it is clear that the UK market is slowing down," said Mr Kent.

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Staveley's final dividend is increased to 5.5p a share (4.9p) to give a total distribution of 7.6p (6.8p).

Trading profits at British Salt, the group's salt subsidiary, rose 1.1 per cent to £10.3 million. But Mr Kent said: "Sales at British Salt were up 15 per cent, so we have clearly taken market share from ICI. ICI is now reacting with price cutting." British Salt has a 53 per cent share of the salt duopoly.

Howe Richardson will complement Staveley's established weighing business, which last year made trading profits of £10.4 million, a 13 per cent increase on the year before. It gives Staveley a 10 per cent share of the global measurement equipment market.

Although US-based, Howe Richardson's principal subsidiary, Chronos Richardson, is located in Britain and West Germany, from where it exports to Eastern Europe, Russia and China. "Howe Richardson gives us a geographical spread Staveley did not have before," Mr Kent said.

Analysts expect the acquisition to contribute £4 million to current year profits.

western suppliers, were not accepted. Viktor Sedov, head of foreign trade at a machine tool company in Krasnodar, a city in southern Russia, is a frequent traveller to continental Europe. He is in Britain for the first time. Mr Sedov's seriousness is surpassed only by his politeness. He appreciates British hospitality, and likes the countryside (North London).

Mr Sedov wasted no time getting to the heart of the matter: "When you write this article mention my company," he said. "It is in our interest. We need joint ventures. Joint ventures with Soviet companies were once fashionable in the West but new activity in this field is drying up following Soviet payment delays.

## US buyers for NZ's Telecom

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

THE New Zealand government has sold the state telephone company, Telecom Corp, for \$2.5 billion to two American companies, Ameritech and Bell Atlantic Corp.

The deal, the largest commercial transaction in New Zealand's history worth more than the privatisation of British Telecom and involved an international auction that included Cable and Wireless.

Under the deal, the two American companies will sell a 51 per cent stake in the virtual monopoly over the next two years. Mr Eduardo Mestre, of Salomon Brothers, which advised the US companies, said that this would be achieved through two public floats, the first early next year.

Fay Rachwhite, the New Zealand merchant bank, has a 1 per cent stake in the venture, with an option to increase it to 10 per cent.

The New Zealand government retains the right to ensure that Telecom's prices do not out-run the inflation rate. Telecom New Zealand reported a profit for the year to March 31 of \$1.3 billion. It employs 16,500 people and has 1.1 million customers.

## Russians schooled in capitalism

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THEY came to Hendon, North London, all the way from Moscow, the Baltic republics, Siberia and southern Russia, and work from eight o'clock in the morning until after ten at night. Then they fall victim to the harsh rules of English licensing hours. "Why are the streets of London so empty at night?" asks one of them. They do not seem to mind though. One would almost believe them when they claim they enjoy themselves.

There is an air of seriousness about the group of 20 senior Soviet managers who have enrolled in a three week course at Middlesex Business School to get acquainted with free-market management techniques.

They have paid some of the costs out of their own pockets, what amounts to probably one of their first lessons in capitalism. It was a hard-currency transaction: marble or camel saddles, otherwise popular means of payment to

western suppliers, were not accepted.

Viktor Sedov, head of foreign trade at a machine tool company in Krasnodar, a city in southern Russia, is a frequent traveller to continental Europe. He is in Britain for the first time. Mr Sedov's seriousness is surpassed only by his politeness. He appreciates British hospitality, and likes the countryside (North London).

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Mr Sedov, like most of his colleagues on the course, appears unperturbed by the difficulties the country is facing and the bitter controversy over the pace and nature of economic reform. "I am an optimist. The Soviet Union is the richest country in the world, with large un-

tapped natural reserves, and we have clever people," he said. However, wealth based on riches in minerals is of no use when it cannot be translated into consumer goods for the people, nor are talents improperly employed.

Naturally, the course can only make a small contribution to steering talents in the right direction.

Dr Abbey Ghobadian, the course leader, is aware of the difficulties involved in training Soviet managers. "They have no concept of what we take for granted, of shares, shareholders, markets or cost controls. They have never been judged on these matters," he said. Management games, where victory is rewarded with bottles of champagne, are employed not just to teach management but to exemplify the concept of competition.

"The most encouraging aspect about them is their hunger for work," he said. "Our daily schedule involves 14 hours of work. Try to do that to a British manager!"



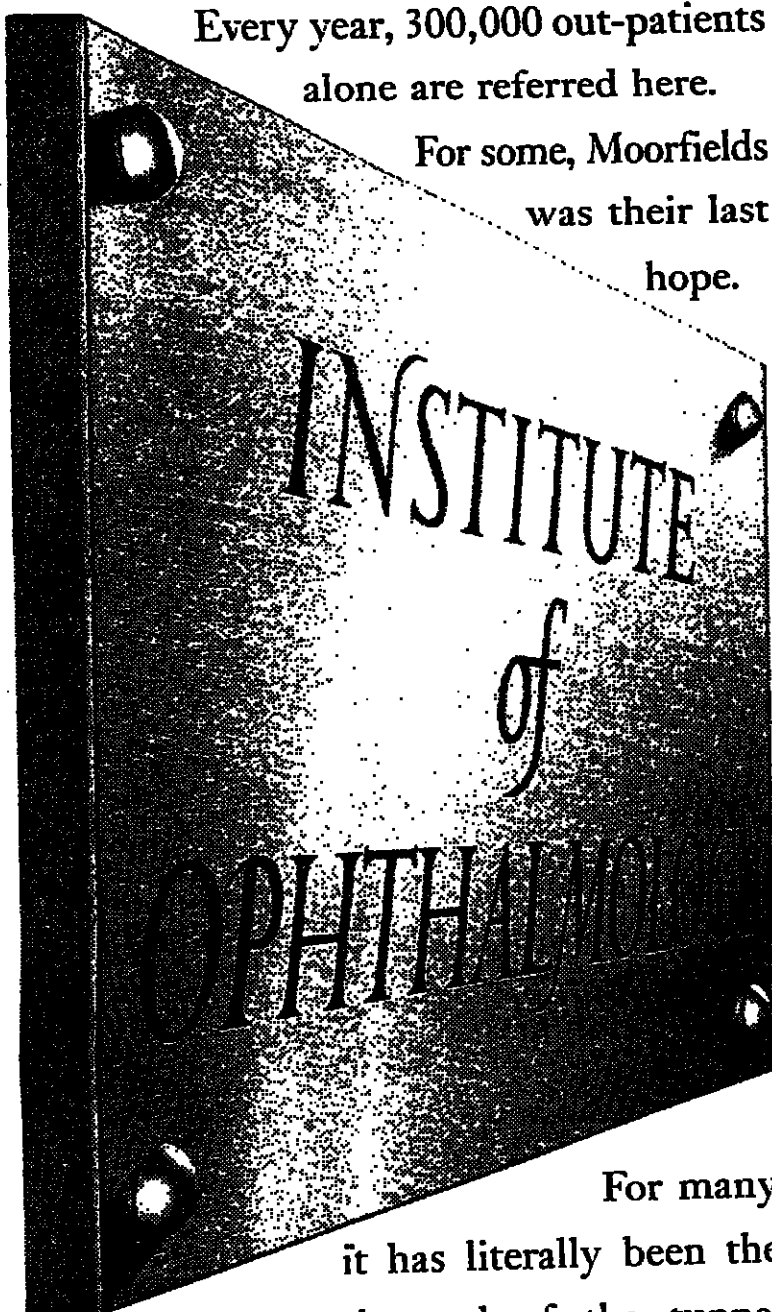
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For it was here that some of the greatest breakthroughs in the prevention and cure of blindness were conceived.

The connection between excess oxygen at birth and blindness in premature babies, for example.

The discovery that the puppy dog worm, toxocara canis, was responsible for blinding young children.

The invention of the first diode 'suitcase' laser, allowing laser treatment in the field.

(Up until then, such lasers were as big as a bedroom and definitely non-portable.)

And then there was the idea of implanting plastic lenses after cataract operations, not to mention countless other surgical techniques that are now standard practise throughout the world.

All were the brainchild of some

member of the Institute.

Such is its reputation, eye specialists from all over the world are now queueing up to work here.

And there's the rub.

For if the building is Victorian, conditions inside are positively Dickensian.

Space is at such a premium, the specialists are working in corridors.

The equipment they are using would be more at home in a museum and there's precious little cash to replace it.

The laboratories, clinics and workshops resemble something from the forties,

## 3 miles

(which is when they were equipped) and there aren't enough trained staff to staff them. But worst of all, (and this is what is really holding everyone back) is the three miles of London traffic that separates the Institute and the Hospital.

For in order for theory to become practise, the researchers at the Institute and the doctors at Moorfields need to work closely together, along with the people they are actually trying to help.

There's a lot of them. A quarter of a million people are already registered blind or partially sighted.

And every day another 40 people will swell that statistic until something is done.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that we are agonisingly close to making major breakthroughs on all fronts in the treatment of blinding diseases.

But we need your help, or to be blunt, your cash, to make it happen.

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The aims of the Appeal are simple enough. We want to re-locate the Institute on a parcel of land smack next to Moorfields.

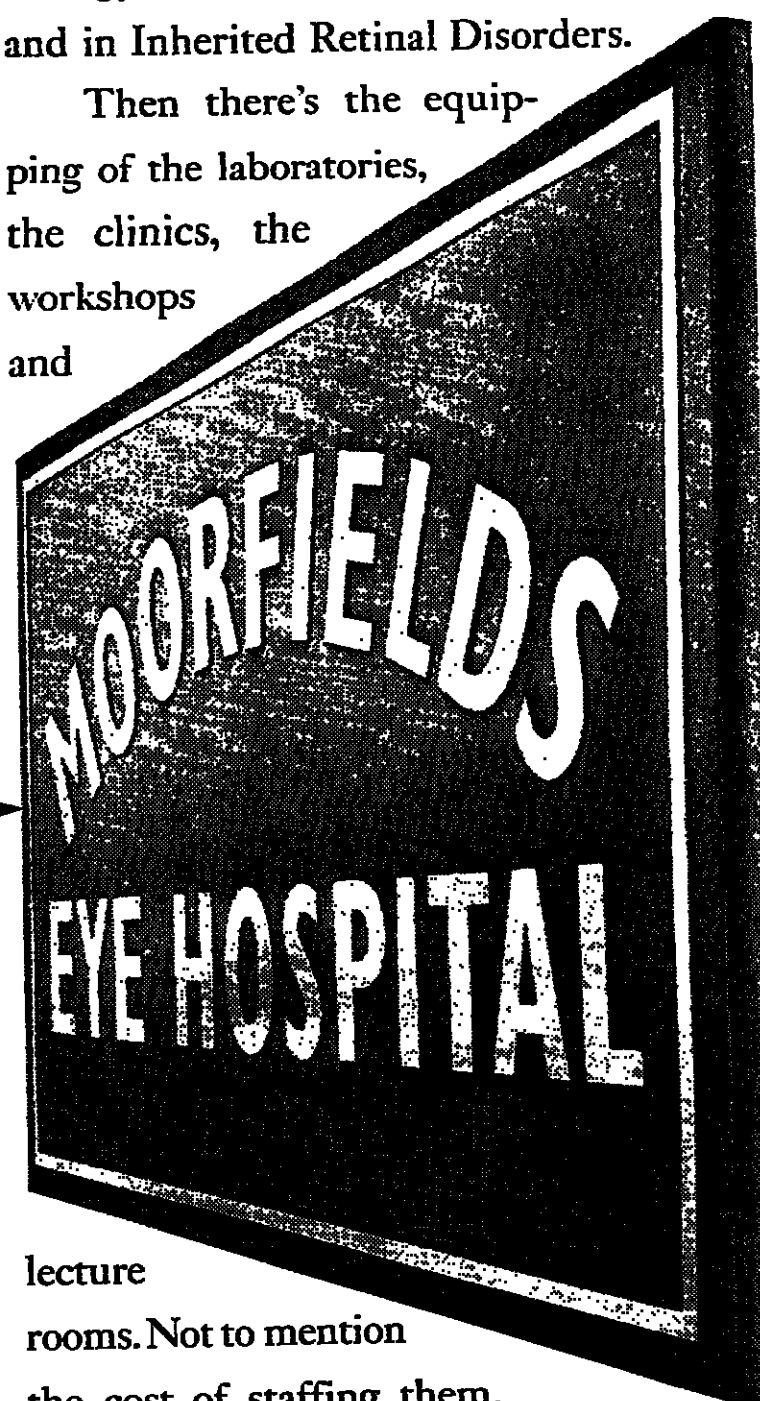
And build a home for it where there's room enough, facilities enough and staff enough to let them get on with the job of restoring people's eyesight.

Altogether, we need about £42 million. Of this sum, only a small amount is taken

up with building costs.

The rest is needed to fund new Chairs: in Molecular Genetics, in Cell Biology, in Developmental Neurobiology and in Inherited Retinal Disorders.

Then there's the equipping of the laboratories, the clinics, the workshops and



lecture rooms. Not to mention the cost of staffing them.

It's a lot of money, we know. But it will build a centre of excellence in the treatment of the blind that will be the envy of the world. And a source of renewed hope to thousands of people in Britain and elsewhere.

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Then think how you'd feel if you couldn't.

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Telephone 071-383 0528.

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It is, we admit, a far cry from the traditional method of banking.  
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				Vol	
COCOA	AMT Futures	Copper	Old A	1481.0-1485.0	1483.0-1484.0 303125
Jul 778-778	May 858-857			1490.50-482.00	440.0-445.0 592525
Sep 765-795	Jul 876-874	Copper	Spec H	1661.0-1662.0	1628.0-1628.0 115775
Nov 765-795	Sep 865-865	Zinc	Spec H	9145-9150	9275-9290 8805
Mar 838-837	Nov 856-856	Aluminum	H	1588.0-1589.0	1589.0-1590.0 397350
COPPER	AMT Futures	Nickel		8410-8415	8430-8410 12598
Jul 862-862	May 867-867	7 Cents per Troy oz. (65 per tonnes)			
Sep 810-810	Jul 890-875				
Nov 810-810	Nov 892-892				
Mar 862-862	C Cattle				
SOYABEAN	AMT Futures				
Jul 778.2-780.0	May 778.2-780.0				
Oct 773.2-742.0	Jul 259.0-584.0				
Nov 757.0-580.0	Nov 259.0-584.0				
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SOYBEAN					
Jul 112.0-112.0	May 112.0-112.0				
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# SPORT

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